

# ESSAY

ON THE

TRADE, COMMERCE, and MANUFACTURES

O-F

SCOTLAND.

BY

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Merchant in Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH:

Printed for the AUTHOR, and sold by all the BOOKSELLERS  
in Town and Country.

M, DCC, LXXV.

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[Price Three Shillings.]



TO HIS GRACE  
HENRY DUKE of BUCCLEUGH,  
Earl of DALKEITH,  
Earl of DONCASTER, &c. &c.

My LORD DUKE,

THE Countenance and Protection shewn by your Grace, to the improvements of the Manufactures and Commerce of your Country, have justly endeared you to the affections of all the good people in Scotland; and pointed you out as the Patron of the following work, which was undertaken entirely with the view of promoting these desirable objects.

The condescension and affability with which you permitted your name to be made use of upon this occasion, I look upon as the highest honour I could possibly receive, and affords the most flattering hopes, that, while such distinguished Personages as your Grace, are not ashamed to stand forth the avowed Friends of the Fabric of Scotland, its Manufactures and Commerce can scarce fail of soon arriving at a pitch of perfection and lustre hitherto unknown.

I have upon many occasions acknowledged my want of abilities as a writer.

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This small tract will convince your Grace how much occasion I had to do so; but, I am afraid, will afford a bad apology for presuming so far upon your known Goodness of Heart, as to solicit you to be its Patron.

My motives for it, however, I have already hinted at, and shall conclude this address, by assuring your Grace, that I never so much regretted the want of those abilities, as I do at this present moment, in not being able to express, with how much sincere respect and esteem, I am,

My LORD DUKE,

Your much obliged,

most obedient,

and very humble servant,

Edinburgh, 20. }  
Dec. 1775. }

DAVID LOCH.

## P R E F A C E.

THE author of the following sheets has so often freely offered his sentiments to the public, that some of his readers may think the present work entirely superfluous. A desire, however, to gratify the wishes of several of his best friends, and whom he is proud to say, are likewise the best friends to their country, prevailed upon him to digest into one pamphlet, in the best manner he was capable, what he had upon different occasions, and at remote periods, published in the news papers, with such remarks as may have since occurred to him.

An undertaking of this nature, the author will readily acknowledge, is extremely out of the line of life in which he was educated. He, consequently, must labour under many disadvantages in the prosecution of it, which others, more accustomed to literary labour, would not be liable to. These he did not fail to mention to those gentlemen who have honoured him with their friendship; but, as they were pleased to say, that his experience in trade would do more than compensate for any

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deficiencies in point of language, he has adventured upon the task; hoping that his other readers will be equally indulgent in this respect, with those of his friends upon whose solicitations it was undertaken.

Having premised this much, the author will now proceed to lay down the plan on which he means to prosecute the work.

*First.* As it is the greatest object for the increase of our woollen manufacture, which the author has, from his earliest life, thought the staple of this country he will endeavour to enforce the propriety of encreasing the number of sheep; and the necessity of getting a proper breed of that useful animal introduced into the country. He will next endeavour to point out the many advantages such a conduct would be of, not only in reducing the price of provisions; but likewise as being the most beneficial manner in which the farmer could possibly employ his ground. The author, having spent the most part of his time in mercantile affairs, cannot be presumed so fully qualified to treat this part of his subject so much to his own satisfaction, or those of his readers, as others that have in a more particular manner engaged his attention. This defect, however, he has been at pains to remedy, by very frequently conversing with many judicious and knowing farmers, on the subject of breeding sheep. He has likewise had  
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recourse to some of the best authors who have wrote upon it; and he flatters himself, that the observations he has thence been enabled to make, if seriously considered, will not be unworthy the attention of those who would wish to improve the breed of sheep in this country.

The next section of this work will be directed to the Woollen Manufactory. On this subject, the author has the vanity to think he can speak with some degree of confidence. Trade, to many different parts of the globe, having been his constant employment, from the earliest period of his life, and having carried it on to an extent, not very frequently practised in this country, he has thereby been enabled to make some observations, on the nature of merchandise in general, which he thinks may lay claim, at least, to a patient hearing. On this article he hopes to shew, by the most irrefragable proofs, that the woollen manufactory is not only the natural, but the most beneficial staple, in which the inhabitants of this country can possibly engage, and that every public, as well as private encouragement, ought to be afforded those who set up manufactories, in which wool can be employed. The linen manufactory, which has been long thought the staple of this country; but to which idea the author could never give his assent, will fall natu-

rally to be treated of under this head. As this branch has long been favoured with the protection and encouragement of the public, it may be thought a bold attempt, in an individual, to combat so universal and so long received an opinion. But opinions, however respectable, must always give way to facts. From these the author has no doubt of convincing every impartial reader, that flax, being an exotic in this country, and the climate an enemy to its ever being brought to perfection, must, in every view, be considered as a most unnatural pursuit; while wool, which is the natural production of the country, and which might be increased to any extent, not only without risk, but with the highest advantage to the raiser, and the country at large, ought to be strenuously prosecuted and encouraged.

The Fisheries shall occupy the next section of this work. These the author has long considered as an article of the highest consequence, and which ought to be prosecuted with the most unremitting ardour. The Woollen Manufactory he considers as the first staple of this country: he can have little doubt, that the Fisheries deserve the second place.

As so very large sums of money are annually sent to London for Porter, and as it is an object worthy of the particular attention of every friend to his country; the  
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author has adventured some observations on that subject. Happy should he be, could these have the effect of opening the eyes of his countrymen, so far as to divest them of the unnatural prejudices which they have long indulged against the malt liquors brewed in Scotland. If this were once to take place, and proper encouragement given to our own countrymen, the author has little doubt, that the public would be equally well served, a number of additional hands employed, and much money kept at home, which is now sent to London.

The American disputes having unhappily arrived at a height to which few expected them, and consequently very much attracted the attention of the public, the author has allotted part of this work to offer his sentiments upon that subject. The frequent intercourse he had with that country, while he was concerned in trade, he hopes, will afford some apology for attempting to write upon a subject that has so long engaged the heads and pens of the most eminent men in the nation. If he shall differ in opinion from most of them, he flatters himself it will not be attributed to a desire of being singular, but to its true motive, that of delivering the real sentiments of his heart, which he has done on this, as well as every other subject on which he has offered his opinion. This will naturally lead  
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to some observations on the trade carried on between Great Britain and her colonies, which seems to have been little understood by the *patriots* on the other side the Tweed, or false glosses put upon it, in order to deceive their weaker brethren. These unhappy disputes and heart-burnings, he is hopeful, will soon be terminated. In that view, therefore, he will endeavour in the next place, to point out a plan, by which that trade may be improved to the mutual advantage of Great Britain and her Colonies, and in a more especial manner to Scotland.

Some general observations, on various subjects, will conclude this work. The author has already confessed his inability to perform it as he could have wished. But, as it is solely intended for the good of his fellow countrymen, he is confident that consideration, with the judicious part of mankind, will atone for a number of faults. As he is entirely disinterested himself, farther than the desire he has of seeing the manufactures of his country flourish, he is sensible of meeting with the contumely of the interested, against whom many of the ensuing observations may strike, though he assures them no personal or ill-natured attack is intended. He is also sensible he shall be treated with derision by another class of people, who, he is sorry to confess,

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are far from being contemptible, in point of numbers. He means those who cannot conceive how a man, who has the misfortune not to possess so many acres, or can show so much ready cash as themselves, should have the presumption to offer them an advice; or why, if he has that effrontery, any attention should be paid to it? There is still another class, whose sneers he lays his account with receiving, and these are the middling, and even lower set of people; though it is the interest of these very people which the author has most at heart. But while he continues to enjoy the approbation of the real friends to his country, no consideration shall deter him from exposing every thing which he is conscious is contrary to its true interests, and recommending, with the utmost exertion of his poor abilities, whatever he thinks may tend to its advancement.

With these resolutions he enters upon the present undertaking, and hopes from an impartial public a patient hearing, and what indulgence his want of knowledge in literary matters, and the importance of the subject itself, may be thought to merit.





## SECTION I.

*Of the propriety of encreasing the number of Sheep in this Country, and the necessity of getting a proper Breed of that useful Animal introduced into it.*

I HAVE chosen to make the raising of Sheep the first section of the present work, because, if proper attention is not paid to that article, however anxious the country may become to encourage their own woollen manufacture, in preference to every other, yet if the manufacturér cannot be supplied with a sufficiency of good wool, it must be a kind of forced work; or, at least, not carried on with that briskness and success which it might be, were the quantity of wool, the produce of our own country, to be encreased.

To accomplish this is by no means either a dangerous or a difficult task. I have been told that there may be at present three millions of sheep in Scotland, and that their number might be encreased to ten millions, or even to a much greater number, without encroaching upon a single acre of cornland.

Before the Union, we not only clothed ourselves, but sent cloth and woollen goods, to a considerable value, abroad; nay, I find, besides, that large sums came into the country for unmanufactured wool. From this it is evident, that the number of sheep in Scotland, before that period, must have been extremely superior to what they are at present. And, in corroboration of that fact, I beg leave to mention one instance, of which I have been credibly informed, *viz.* That, forty years ago, there were, in East and Mid-Lothians, 20 sheep, for one that are in these counties at present.

That these are facts, I imagine no one, in the least conversant with the history of his own country, will controvert. In hopes to be forgiven, for endeavouring to account why we allowed our sheep to diminish so greatly after the Union, I shall offer some conjectures on the subject. It is well known, that however the English may now affect to despise the Scots, they courted a union with the most unremitting ardour for a series of years, and that it was at last brought about, more by underhand dealing, than from its being thought, by the bulk of this nation, of any advantage to it; nay, is it not well known, that by far the greatest



part of Scotland thought themselves sold by a few of their leading men? Whether, however, this union has been of advantage to both countries, is a question which has been often agitated, but which does not, from the nature of this little work, seem necessary for me to determine; perhaps, were I to give any opinion, I would answer in the affirmative. This much, however, I thought necessary to offer, in order to pave the way for my conjecture, concerning the neglect which this country appears to have shewn to the breed of sheep, since the Union. The noblemen who managed this momentous affair, on the part of Scotland, possessed great landed property. They had received very large sums of money from the English court, in order to bring about that much desired event. The woollen manufacture had long been considered as the staple of England. It may therefore be presumed, at least, that these noblemen, who had tasted the sweets of English gold, might, underhand, be applied to for preventing Scotland from interfering with England in its favourite branch. Many other channels of trade could, with great appearance of utility, be held out to the inhabitants of this country; and, among the rest, that of the linen manufacture, in which the English would never attempt to rival them. If, therefore, such a thing was agitated, which I offer merely as conjectural, the most certain way of effecting it was, surely, by discouraging the breed of sheep in Scotland; because, without the commodity, it is impossible to carry on any manufacture. Whether the decrease of sheep is owing to this cause or not, I will not take upon me to say; but it is an undeniable fact, that our breed of sheep have gradually dwindled away since that period. That this, however, is greatly prejudicial to the true interests of Scotland, after begging pardon for so long a digression, I shall now endeavour to point out.

Scotland, being in many places mountainous, is, perhaps, for that very reason, one of the best countries in the world for raising sheep. These animals love a dry pasture, and will endure much cold, provided they are kept from wet; nay, the colder the climate is in which they are brought up, so much the finer will their wool be. Instances of this might be multiplied without number; a few shall suffice.

That large tract of country called Thibet, which lies betwixt India and China, is mostly 8000 feet above the level of the sea, and consequently, notwithstanding its southern climate, must be very cold. Here the sheep delight to feed, and produce exceeding fine wool.

The mountains of the Andes and Peru, which lie in South America,

America, and belong to Spain, are still higher, being about 15,000 feet above the level of the sea. The cold is so intense upon the summits of these mountains, that it is impossible for either man or beast to breathe upon them; yet the sheep fed upon these mountains produce full as fine wool as the former. They naturally, and by instinct, climb up as high as they find food and climate fit for them, and as naturally descend as they feel the winter setting in. In these high mountainous countries, the same temperature may always be enjoyed; for, as the season alters, the place of abode can also be altered. I suppose 8000 feet above the level of the sea is cold enough to live in, when the sun is verticle, or right over head, and without shade: That, by descending 4000 feet, during the winter months, the same climate, as to heat or cold, may be enjoyed: That, by this means, the sheep are constantly kept in a cool region all the year round, which is what pleases them, and at the same time are plentifully supplied with good dry wholesome food.

Instances nearer home might also be mentioned; particularly in Spain; but, as I intend to borrow a good deal, concerning the method practised in that country, of pasturing their sheep, from authors who have wrote upon that subject, and as this will fall more naturally to be taken in, when treating of the manner in which sheep should be managed in general, I shall wave it at present. As an instance, however, that the coldest climate in our own country, produces sheep with the finest wool, I beg leave to mention, that I have observed, and often had in my possession, stockings made from the wool of the growth of Zetland, much finer than any thing of that sort of manufacture I ever saw; nor is there any country in which I had an opportunity of being, which promises better than our west Highlands, for bringing up and feeding sheep, so as to produce good wool. These numerous hills afford excellent sheep-pasture; and, from their vicinity to the great western ocean, the snow does not lie upon them, in the severest winters, above a few days at a time. It is therefore with much satisfaction I learn, that the inhabitants of that part of the country, are at present employed in procuring a proper breed, and greatly augmenting their number of sheep.

It is with equal pleasure I observe a similar plan of conduct set on foot by several noblemen and gentlemen of this part of the country; and, I hope, the example of so many respectable characters, both for knowlege and birth, will be followed by every gentleman and farmer in the kingdom. These noblemen and gentlemen deserve the highest praise, for the trouble and expence they have been at, in procuring  
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proper Rams from Mr Chaplin of Lincolnshire, for improving the breed of sheep, best suited for our pasture. This was certainly striking at the root, and laying a foundation for every future improvement in the Woollen Manufacture. By giving these Rams different stations, and allowing every gentleman and farmer to send their ewes to be served by them, they evince to the world, that it is the good of their country they solely aim at, and likewise, that they themselves are convinced, nothing can more effectually contribute to it, than an universal and steady resolution of carrying on the same practice over the whole kingdom. I long ago proposed such a measure. It may, therefore, be naturally supposed, that I feel no small degree of happiness, in finding my sentiments supported and confirmed by noblemen and gentlemen, more distinguished by a love of their country, and every mental excellency, than by their high birth, though in this last they are inferior to none in the three kingdoms. When this wise and salutary plan shall once become universal through Scotland, as I hope it soon will, I am conscious the most salutary effects will result from it, as well to the breeder of the sheep in particular, as to the country at large.

To confirm this, I will beg leave to mention the case of a noble Lord, who has a breed of sheep, partly Spanish, and partly from Dorsetshire, and other counties in England, which thrive and feed far on his poorest pasture, and none have died of the rot, or any other distemper, these four years past. His Lordship allows no tarring, and the wool produced from these sheep sells at 20 shillings *per* stone, while his neighbours tarred wool will bring no more than three shillings and sixpence. The mutton is likewise much better than that of tarred sheep. His Lordship reckons, that each sheep, upon an average, yields 8 *lib* tallow, and weighs 16 *lib* *per* quarter of fine meat. These sheep manure the land they feed on, by a very simple operation, and at a small expence. His Lordship has a strong netting made of about 30 yards square. This is fixed to the ground with poles, which makes a fold for the sheep, where they lie during the night, and when that place is properly manured by their dung, &c. the fold is easily removed to cover another spot. Thus, five score of sheep will sufficiently bring into good corn land, from eight to ten acres in the year, and sixty acres of this coarse ground will do much to feed these fine woolled sheep, by laying it down in this manner, *viz.* Twenty acres turnip, twenty oats, ten fitches, and ten with rye and small yellow clover. These sheep drop their lambs, which are often twins, in January, and the same ewes frequently drop twins again in September; for these lambs his Lordship gets fifteen shillings a-head

a-head in January, and about half that sum, for those which are dropt in September. Surely, ground cannot be better employed, or with more advantage to the proprietor, than in this manner. The plan is likewise so plain and simple, that, I humbly think, it ought to be adopted by all the gentlemen and farmers in this country.

As the following fact corroborates what is above mentioned, and as I am so far certain of its authenticity, as to be allowed to make use of the gentleman's name, in its support, I could not omit here taking notice of it. Mr Chalmers, in the neighbourhood of Leith, who had occasion to deal in feeding sheep on the island of Inchkeith, bought his stock mostly from Galla Water, which he found to answer very well, and generally sold his lambs for between five and eight shillings. One of these lambs, however, being somehow out of order, the butcher would not give more for it than one shilling and fourpence. This was so very trifling a sum, that Mr Chalmers rejected the offer, and resolved to give the poor animal a chance for life, by allowing it to feed in the park along with his cow. In this pasture the sheep had only remained fifteen months, when it grew so very fat, that he was under the necessity of slaughtering it, when, to his great surprise, the beast was found to contain 24 *lib.* of tallow, and each quarter weigh 23 *lib.* of the finest mutton that could be eat. The wool was likewise of so good a quality, that the skin brought seven shillings and six-pence, and the person who sold it informed Mr Chalmers, that had his wife been in health to have been able to make use of the wool for her own family, he would cheerfully have given half a guinea for it. Can any crop, in point of profit, come up to this? Surely not. The wool of this sheep might, besides, have made cloth to the value of five pounds sterling, and employed a good family several weeks in the manufacturing of it.

And here I cannot help making some observations on what has been advanced by a late author and surveyor of Tweeddale. That gentleman takes upon him to say, that the bettering the breed of their sheep would be a loss to the country. This, I own, is the strangest doctrine I ever heard, and, at the same time, the most repugnant to common sense. How it can enter into the head of any man, that a breed of bad cattle is more advantageous for the country, and the proprietors, than a breed of good cattle would be, to me, at least, is past conception ridiculous, and destroys every idea of improving a country.

The same author is greatly mistaken as to what I said with regard to the sheep in Tweeddale. I never recommended large sheep, nor sheep from a warm climate. I took upon



pon me, indeed, to advise the store-farmers to get sheep that bore better wool, than the bulk of the sheep in that county do, and these they may have from Lanmmuir, which this author says is much colder than the hills in Tweeddale, by *frigid blasts, and frost rinds*; but certain I am, their wool, in general, is much better, and they are improving it every season. The brucked faced sheep, so much raised in Tweeddale, bear the worst wool of any sheep in Britain, and are by no means hardier than the white woolled, short legged sheep, which are now raised in the highest and coldest grounds in Scotland. This gentleman recommends clumps of firs, as a proper shelter for sheep; than which, I will be forgiven to say, nothing can be more absurd. The drops which fall from trees are certain destruction to sheep; neither do they afford any food, and very little shelter. The proper shelter for sheep is undoubtedly whins; they both afford protection and food, and our forefathers, who, it will be no reflection on the present generation to say, were in many things as wise as ourselves, were so sensible of this, that a premium was given, by a Scots act of parliament, for raising them. They are not a native plant of this country, but were imported from France; and I heard a nobleman from the county of Fife, with whom I have the honour to be acquainted, say, that some of his old tenants have heard their grandfathers tell, that they remembered the time when there was not a whin in Fife-shire. The propagation of whins has been greatly neglected in the sheep countries, in the south of Scotland, where they are much wanted. I would therefore humbly propose, that a little more attention might be paid to that article by the gentlemen and farmers of the south country. A most judicious and experienced farmer, in the sheep and black cattle way, with whom I conversed on this subject, recommends the propagation of whins, as the best cover and feeding for sheep in the time of a storm. It should be done on a south exposure, with a loamy and dry soil, and may be raised to advantage from the seed, which should be sown in March. These exposures, in different places, would prevent the necessity of housing the sheep at night, which greatly sullies and destroys the wool.

Another great prejudice to the wool of this country, is the unaccountable practice a number of our people have got into, of tarring their sheep. I will venture to say, that nothing can more effectually tend to the destroying of the wool, than this custom does, at the same that it has not the smallest influence in preserving the sheep, which is the only reason that can possibly be assigned for still continuing it. Nature, however, that great and just monitor, speaks loudly



ly against it. Has the God of nature created any living thing, without at the same time giving it such covering as is best suited for its existence in this world ; and shall we, finite creatures, pretend to amend his system ? Depend upon it, whenever we make the attempt, we shall find ourselves egregiously mistaken. Do we not see the horse, the cow, and every beast of the field, nay, those which are merely domestic, such as the dog and cat, furnished, by that unerring Being, with a warmer covering, during the winter than the summer months ; and shall we set ourselves up as better judges, by adding to the covering of the sheep, what nature never intended should be added ? I am much afraid, if we do, our labour will be lost, and our presuming to stray from the path that nature has pointed out, will only serve to confirm our ignorance. Let us take a view of the most northern climates, where we, accustomed to, and born in this country, could not exist. Are the wild beasts in these regions supplied with any artificial covering ? They are not. Do they require any ?—We have all the reason in the world to believe they do not. From whence do we receive all our fine furs and beaver, but from those countries ; and shall we then doubt, that the colder the climate is, there may we naturally expect the finest wool to be produced.

In speaking to this point, hitherto, I have deduced my arguments from nature. To me, I will readily acknowledge, they are by far the most forcible ; and many more might have been added. I shall now, however, endeavour to shew, that the practice of the most knowing and wisest in this country, as well as that of the greatest breeders of sheep in the world, strongly coincide with the opinion I have here adopted.

To these farmers, who have been in the practice of smearing their sheep with tar, it is by no means my intention to advise a total abolition of it at once ; as, to those who have already undergone that operation, it must, in a manner, have become a second nature ; but sure, even in these, the quantity might be gradually diminished. Instead of this destructive practice of smearing the sheep with tar, which greatly diminishes the softness, cleanness, and fineness of the wool, I would humbly recommend, upon the authority of a sensible, judicious farmer, who has had thirty years experience in the management of sheep, the rubbing them over with the juices of broom and tobacco, boiled together with strong urine, and mixed with soft soap. This makes the sheep stand the winter, keeps them clean, and free from scab, vermin, and most other diseases they are subject to. The stems and refuse of tobacco answer for this composition ;  
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and, if government would give orders to *boil*, instead of *burn*, all the condemned tobacco, and let the strolling farmers have the juice, or sell it to them for behoof of the poor, it would be a great means of reducing the price of butter; which, among other necessities, has got up so high, by lessening the consumption of it; and soft soap can be had as good in Leith as in any place in Europe. This gentleman likewise informed me, that soft soap, applied to any part that is affected with itching or scab, removes it sooner than any article with which the sheep can be rubbed; and, surely, it is of a much softer and kinder nature than tar, and comes cheaper than butter. Indeed, from the materials of which it is made, there can be no doubt, that it is the best ingredient that can be applied to sheep. It has likewise this further advantage, that the above gentleman declares he never knew it to fail, when rubbed in time, on any hard, scabby part of the sheep, but that it always removed the cause of the complaint.

The noble Lord, who I have already mentioned, makes use of no tar to his sheep, nor does he smear them with any thing instead of it, and yet they thrive better than those of his neighbours, who practise that method, and their wool sells at five times the price. Most of the gentlemen, and sensible farmers, who breed sheep in this country, now follow the same example, and I hope the practice will soon become universal, as it is undoubtedly so in England, Wales, and indeed every other country who wish to have fine wool. I believe I may venture to say, that this is so much the case, that, if a calculation could be made of all the sheep reared in the known world, it would be found, that, for one sheep which is smeared with tar, ten thousand receive no other covering than what nature has afforded; which, as I before observed, has taken particular care to fortify the brute creation with such cloathing as best suits the different climates in which they live, and even to encrease or diminish it, according as the variations of the season renders it more or less necessary. I am sensible the tarring of sheep has long been practised in this country, and that it is no easy matter to abolish a custom, which has become inveterate by use; especially amongst the lower class of people. To these, however, I would observe, that their grandfathers as firmly believed in witch-craft, as they were convinced that sheep could not live without tarring, and many poor old women were burnt for being witches, for no other cause, but that they were more sensible than their neighbours. This inhuman practice has happily long been abolished; and, I cannot help thinking the tarring of sheep is equally ridiculous; for these poor people can give no better reason for  
continuing

continuing it, than that their fathers and grandfathers did so before them. I would therefore recommend to them two very simple experiments, which I think should convince them of their error, and in which they may easily satisfy themselves. Let them take a handful of fine wool, that never was tarred, and another that had undergone that operation; let both be exposed to a heavy rain; and, let the preference be given to that species of wool which best throws off the rain. I am certain the experiment will terminate in favour of the wool which never had been tarred; and therefore must conclude, that tarring, instead of being useful, is the destruction of the very sheep we mean to preserve. The other experiment I would beg leave to recommend is this, Let them, in very cold weather, apply to their naked bodies the skin of a sheep which had not been tarred, and the skin of another which had been tarred, and I am persuaded they will find the former much more comfortable than the latter. Can we then entertain a doubt, that it must have the very same effect upon the sheep themselves, which it is the great aim of every sensible farmer to keep, as much as possible, from wet and cold, during the winter? Nothing, surely, can answer that purpose so well as the covering with which nature has so amply provided them; nor is any thing more necessary for their preservation and comfort, than keeping them from wet, and affording them a proper shelter from the inclemency of the weather, which may be easily done, by making plantations of whins, at convenient places, as already noticed, and which is even preferable to housing them, as their wool would thereby be kept clean, while the putting them into houses sullies and destroys it. Our American brethren, indeed, have for some time past made use of this *precious* ointment, mixed with some feathers, as a *preservative* for men; and I have no objection that they should still continue the practice. Many of them, I am certain, deserve to be smeared with tar, and such dirt, much better than our poor harmless sheep; and, I make no doubt, that, by this time, they will be fond of any covering. I would therefore humbly propose, that government should allow them the same bounty for keeping their tar at home, that they do for sending it here; as we can be supplied with plenty of it for every necessary purpose, from Norway; that they should strictly enjoin the Bostonians to tar all the hogs, tups, rams, and *cross grown* beasts in that country; and that their vermin of clergy should be instructed to administer that useful salve to the bodies of their flocks, so soon as they are able to carry arms against God, their King, and Mother Country.

Another great destruction to our sheep, is the number of uselefs dogs kept in the country. I approve much of destroying eagles and foxes ; but I am persuaded the encrease of dogs is of much worse consequence to the sheep, than even these and all other animals put together. Within these few years, the noblemen, gentlemen, and farmers, in a circuit of a few miles round Edinburgh, have had above 300 fine sheep devoured, or tore to pieces, by these vermin. Some law, or tax, therefore, to suppress uselefs dogs, ought immediately to be applied for. There is scarce a porter, chairman, &c. but must have their dogs ; and, as many of them are not supplied by their owners with necessary food, it is natural to suppose they should betake themselves to the fields, where they fall upon the harmless sheep, which they destroy, much to the prejudice of the proprietors, as well as to the loss of the country.

But, it is now time to treat of the proper pasture for sheep and their management ; and, on this subject, as I must acknowledge myself but little versant, I shall rather offer the opinion of others, than give any decisive determination of my own. One thing, however, seems admitted upon all hands, and which I have already taken notice of, that hill-pasture is the best for sheep, and what they most delight in. I have likewise observed, that this country abounds with such pasture. We have some very fine corn lands ; but these bear a small proportion to our high grounds, which are fit only for the pasture of sheep and black cattle. The gentlemen and farmers have improved their lands much of late years ; but many have thrown away their labour, by endeavouring to make corn grow in a soil where it will never ripen, whereby they lose the use for which nature has designed it. Land that lies one thousand feet above the level of the sea, in this country, will seldom, if ever, bring corn to perfection. There are some particular dry spots, that may, in very warm seasons, bring the corns to fill, but such crops are not to be depended on ; while you are almost certain of success in raising sheep and black cattle upon these grounds, which I will venture to say, at the same time that no such hazard is run, as with corn, will yield a more lucrative crop to the proprietor. I will beg leave to recommend, as to the management of sheep, the method practised by the store-farmers in the western highlands. I have been informed, by a gentleman who has frequently visited these countries, within these ten years, that there are very considerable tracts of country now occupied by sheep, where none were formerly, and that, from some of these  
sheep



sheep farms. 4000 lambs have been sent to market in one year. The plan of feeding and rearing sheep in those parts answers so well, that two of these storemasters have already purchased the property of what they a few years ago only rented. This success has induced others to follow their example, and large tracts of hills, which formerly contributed little towards the rearing of black cattle, their only stock, are now occupied by sheep, from which the proprietor derives every advantage he expected. If this scheme succeeds in a particular district, it will certainly answer in every place, possessed of similar advantages, of which there are many hundred square miles in the west and north parts of Scotland, equally capable of this transmutation. I must here also observe, that the sheep have greatly mended the pasture upon these western hills, and no doubt do thereby much encrease their own value, and the fineness of their wool. Formerly, those hills appeared to be nothing else than dry sapless heaths; they are now, however, by the manure they receive from the dung of the sheep, converted into a beautiful verdure, obvious at several miles distance, so that they can easily be distinguished from those hills that are not under the pasture of that useful animal.

Many things are necessary to be attended to by the breeders of sheep; but, as I do not pretend to be master of the subject, I will not take upon me to give directions. A few extracts, from authors who have wrote upon the manner, in which the Spanish sheep are treated, I flatter myself, will not be thought impertinent in this place.

I shall therefore here beg leave to lay before my readers, the following extracts from a letter wrote by a gentleman in Spain to Mr Peter Collinson, F. R. S.

“ There are two kinds of sheep in Spain; the coarse-woolled sheep, who remain all their lives in their native country, and who are housed every night in winter; and the fine-woolled sheep, who are all their lives in the open air; who travel every summer from the cool mountains of the northern parts of Spain, to feed all the winter on the southern warm plains of Andalusia, Manca, and Estremadura. From computations made with the utmost accuracy, it has appeared, that there are five millions of fine-woolled sheep in Spain; and that the wool and flesh of a flock of ten thousand sheep produced yearly about twenty-four reals a-head, which we will suppose to be near the value of twelve English sixpences. Of these but one goes clear a head to the owner yearly; three sixpences a head go yearly to the king; and the other eighth goes to the expences of pasture, tithes, shepherds, dogs, salt, shearing, &c.



“ Thus the annual product of the five millions of sheep amounts to thirty-seven millions and a half of sixpences, a little more or less, of which there are about three millions and a half for the owners, above fifteen millions enter into the treasury, and seven millions and a half go to the benefit of the public. Hence it is the kings of Spain call these flocks in their ordinances, *the precious jewel of the crown*.

“ Formerly this jewel was really set in the crown. A succession of many kings were lords of all the flocks. Hence the great number of ordinances, penal laws, privileges, and immunities, which issued forth in different reigns for the preservation and special government of the sheep: Hence a royal council was formed, under the title of *The council of the grand royal flock*, which exists to this day, though the king has not a single sheep. Various exigencies of state, in different reigns, alienated, by degrees, the whole grand flock from the crown, together with all its privileges, which were collected and published in the year 1731, under the title of *The laws of the royal flock*, a volume in large folio, of above 500 pages.

“ The wars and wants of Philip I.’s reign forced that king to sell forty thousand sheep to the marquis of Iturbleta, which was the last flock of the crown.

“ Ten thousand sheep compose a flock, which is divided into ten tribes. One man has the conduct of all. He must be the owner of four or five hundred sheep, strong, active, vigilant, intelligent in pasture, in the weather, and in the diseases of sheep. He has absolute dominion over fifty shepherds and fifty dogs, five of each to a tribe. He chuses them, he chastises them, or discharges them at will. He is the *præpositus*, or chief shepherd of the whole flock. You may judge of his importance by his salary: He has forty pound a-year and a horse, whereas the first shepherd of a tribe has but forty shillings a-year, the second thirty-four, the third twenty-five, the fourth fifteen, and a boy ten. All their allowance is two pound of bread a-day each. They may keep a few goats and sheep in the flock; but the wool is for the master; they have only the lambs and the flesh. The chief shepherd gives them three shillings in April, and three in October, by way of regale for the road; and these are all the sweets these miserable wretches enjoy. Expoted every day in the year to all weathers, and every night to lie in a hut. Thus fare, and thus live, generally to old age, 25,000 men, who clothe kings in scarlet, and bishops in purple; for that is the number computed to keep the fine-woolled sheep of Spain, with the same number of dogs of the large mastiff-kind, who are allowed two pounds of bread a-piece *per day*.

I often saw these flocks in the summer sheep walks of the hills and vales of Leo, Old Castile, Cuenca, and Arragon, I saw them in their winter plains of Manca, Estremadura, and Andalusia. I often met them in their peregrination from the one to the other. I saw and I saw again. One eye is worth an hundred ears. I inquired, I observed, and even made experiments. All this was done, when I happily got acquainted with a good plain old friar, who had a consummate knowledge of all the mechanical, low, minute circumstances and œconomy of a flock. He told me that he was the son of a shepherd; that he had followed, fifteen long years, the tribe of sheep his father led; that, at twenty-five years of age, he begged an old primer; that at thirty he could read; that at thirty-six he had learned Latin enough to read mass and the breviary; that he was ordained by Don Juan Navarre, lord Bishop of Albarrazin, who, as it is known, even to a proverb, in Spain, has ordained thousands, declaring, these forty years, in a loud voice, "That a priest is the most precious boon which a bishop can bestow, in the name of God, to mankind, even though he was as unlearned as an apostle;" that thus ordained, he entered into the order of St Francis; that he had never meddled in their affairs these twenty-four years past, but only said mass, confessed, instructed, and gave an eye to about 500 wedders, who grazed in the neighbouring downs for the use of the convent; that he had read the Bible, the Lives of the Saints, and the Lives of the Popes, with no other view in the world but to find out all that was said about shepherds; that good Abel was the first shepherd; that all the patriarchs were shepherds; that the meek shepherd Moses was chosen to deliver the people of God out of bondage; that Saul, in seeking his father's flocks, found a kingdom; that David went out from his flock to slay the Philistine giant; that 14,000 sheep was the chief reward Job received for his invincible patience; that Isidro, the protecting saint of Madrid, was not, as it is vulgarly believed, an husband-man, like wicked Cain, but that he was really a keeper of sheep; that the great Pope Sextus Quintus was verily and truly a shepherd, and not a swine-herd; that, for his part, he had forsaken his sheep to become a shepherd of men. He had all these things by heart, just as he had all the minute circumstances of the sheep he followed; and this letter would have been imperfect had I not met him.

"The first thing the shepherd does, when the flock returns from the south to their summer downs, is to give them as much salt as they will eat. Every owner allows his flock of a thousand sheep, one hundred aroves, or twenty-five quintals

tals of salt, which the flock eats in about five months. They eat none in their journey, nor in their winter-walk. This has ever been the custom; and it is the true reason why the kings of Spain cannot raise the price of salt to the height it is in France; for it would tempt the shepherds to stint the sheep, which, it is believed, would weaken their constitutions, and degrade the wool. The shepherd places fifty or sixty flat stones at about five steps distance from each other; he strews salt upon each stone; he leads the flock slowly through the stones, and every sheep eats to his liking: But then they never eat a grain of salt when they are feeding in lime-stone land, whether it be on the grass of the downs, or on the little plants on the corn fields after harvest-home. The shepherd must not suffer them to stay too long without salt; he leads them into a spot of argillaceous clayey soil, and in a quarter of an hour's feeding they march to the stones, and devour the salt. If they meet a spot of the mixed soil, which often happens, they eat salt in proportion. Ask the shepherd why the sheep eat no salt in lime-stone soil, and but little in the mixed? Because, Sir, it is corn land. I know, and indeed who does not know, that lime abounds in saline matter? But then the salt, which chymists extract from it, may not be the genuine salt of the lime-stone before calcination, for the fire may form new combinations. It may be sea-salt, or at least the muriatic acid, which rises in the vegetation of grass, and satisfies the sheep's taste for salt. The latter end of July the rams are turned into the tribe of ewes, regulated at six or seven rams for every hundred. When the shepherd judges they are served, he collects the rams into a separate tribe to feed apart: But then there is another tribe of rams that feed apart too, and never serve the ewes, but which are merely for wool, and for the butchery; for, though the wool and flesh of wedders are finer and more delicate than those of rams, yet the fleece of a ram weighs more than the fleece of a wedder, who is likewise shorter-lived than the ram; which compensation is the reason there are so few tribes of wedders in the royal flock of Spain. The fleeces of three rams generally weigh twenty-five pounds: There must be the wool of four wedders, and that of five ewes, to weigh twenty-five pounds. There is the same disproportion in their lives, which depend upon their teeth; for, when they fail, they cannot bite the grass, and therefore are condemned to the knife: The ewes teeth, from their tender constitutions, and the fatigue of breeding, begin to fail after five years of age, the wedders after six, and the robust rams not till towards eight. It is forbidden to expose ram's flesh to sale;

but



but the law is eluded, they cut the old rams; and as soon as the incision is healed, they are sold to the butchers at a lower price than coarse woolled widders. That is the reason such bad mutton is generally eaten in Madrid, and that is the reason there are more rams and fewer lambs sold and eaten every day in the year in Madrid, than in the rest of Europe.

“ At the latter end of September they put on the redding or ocre. It is ponderous iron earth, common in Spain. The shepherd dissolves it in water, and daubs the sheep's backs with it from the neck to the rump. It is an old custom. Some say it mixes with the grease of the wool, and so becomes a varnish impenetrable to the rain and cold; others, that its weight keeps the wool down, so hinders it from growing long and coarse; and others, that it acts as an absorbent earth, receives part of the transpiration, which would foul the wool, and make it asperous.

“ The latter end of September the sheep begin their march towards the low plains. Their itinery is marked out by immemorial custom, and by ordinances; and is as well regulated as the march of troops. They feed freely in all the wilds and commons they pass through; but as they must necessarily pass through many cultivated spots, the proprietors of them are obliged, by law, to leave a passage open for the sheep, through vineyards, olive-yards, corn-fields, and pasture-land common to towns; and these passages must be at least ninety yards wide, that they may not be too crowded in a narrow lane. These passages are often so long, that the poor creatures march six or seven leagues a-day, to get into the open wilds, where the shepherd walks slow to let them feed at ease and rest; but they never stop; they have no day of repose; they march at least two leagues a-day, ever following the shepherd, always feeding or seeking with their heads towards the ground, till they get to their journey's end, which, from the Montana, to Estremadura, is about 150 leagues, which they march in less than forty days. The chief shepherd's first care is, to see that each tribe is conducted to the same district it fed in the year before, and where the sheep yeaned, which they think prevents a variation in the wool; though, indeed, this requires but little care, for it is a notorious truth, that the sheep would go to that very spot of their own accord. His next care was, to fix the toils\* where the sheep pass the night, lest they should stray,

and

\* The toils are made of Sparto, in meshes a foot wide, and the thickness of a finger, so that toils serve instead of hurdles. The whole square toil is light. Sparto is a sort of rush, which bears twisting into ropes for coasting vessels. It swims; hemp sinks. It is called Bofs by the English sailors.

and fall into the jaws of wolves. Lastly, the shepherds make up their poor huts with stakes, branches, and brambles; for which end, and for firing, they are allowed, by the law, to cut off one branch from every tree. I believe this to be the reason, that all the forest-trees, near the sheep-walks in Spain, are as hollow as willow-pollards. The roots of trees, and the quantity of sap, encrease yearly with the branches; if you lop off these, all the sap that should go to the annual production, and to the nourishment of buds, stems, leaves, flowers, fruit, and growth of the branches, remains in the trunk; from hence stagnation, fermentation, and rottenness. Next comes the time when the ewes begin to drop their lambs, which is the most toilsome and most solicitous part of the pastoral life. The shepherds first cull out the barren from the pregnant ewes, which are conducted to the best shelter, and the others to the bleakest parts of the district. As the lambs fall, they are led apart with their dams to another comfortable spot. A third division is made of the last yeaned lambs, for whom was allotted, from the beginning, the most fertile part, the best soil, and sweetest grass of the down, that they may grow as vigorous as the first yeaned; for they must all march the same day towards their summer quarters. The shepherds perform four operations upon all the lambs, about the same time, in the month of March; but first they pay the twentieth lamb; the other half tithe is paid in the winter walk. They cut off their tails five inches below the rump for cleanliness: They mark them on the nose with a hot iron: They saw off part of their horns, that the rams neither hurt one another nor the ewes: They render impotent the lambs doomed for docil bellweathers, to walk at the head of the tribe; they make no incision; the shepherd turns the testicles with his finger twenty times about in the scrotum, till he twists the spermatick vessels as a rope, and they wither away without any danger. As soon as the month of April comes about, which is the time of their departure, the sheep express, by various uneasy motions, a remarkable restlessness, and strong desire to go off. The shepherds must exert all their vigilance lest they should escape; and it has often happened, that a tribe has stolen a march of three or four leagues upon a sleepy shepherd: but he is sure to find them, for they return exactly the same way they came; and there are many examples of three or four strayed sheep walking an hundred leagues to the very place they fed in the year before. Thus they all go off towards the summer mountains in the same order they came; only, with this difference, the flocks that go to Leo and

Castile



Castile are shorn in the road ; where we will stay a little to see the apparatus of this operation, whilst the other flocks march to Molina Arragon. They begin to shear the first of May, provided the weather be fair ; for if the wool were not quite dry, the fleeces, which are close piled upon one another, would ferment and rot. It is for this reason that the shearing houses are so spacious. I saw some which can contain, in bad weather, 20,000 sheep, and cost above 5000 l. sterling : besides, the ewes are creatures of such tender constitutions, that, if they were exposed immediately after shearing, to the air of a bleak night, they would all perish.

“ There are 125 shearmen employed to shear a flock of 10,000 sheep : a man shears twelve ewes a-day, and but eight rams. The reason of this difference is, not only because the rams have larger bodies, stronger and more wool ; but the sheerman dare not tie their feet, as they do those of the unresisting ewes. Experience taught, that the bold rebellious ram would struggle even to suffocation in captivity under the shears : they gently lay him down, they stroke his belly, they beguile him out of his fleece. A certain number of sheep are led into the great shelter-house, which is a parallelogram of 4 or 500 feet long, and 100 wide, where they remain all day ; as many as they judge can be dispatched by the shearmen next day, are driven from the shelter-hall into a long, narrow, low gut, which is called the *sweating place*, where they remain all night, crowded as close together as the shepherd can keep them, that they may sweat plentifully, which, as they say, is to soften the wool for the shears, and oil their edges. They are led by degrees in the morning into the spacious shearing hall, which joins the sweating room. The shepherd carries them off as fast as they are sheared, to be marked with tar ; and as this operation is necessarily performed upon one at a time, it gives a fair opportunity to the shepherds to cull out for the butchery all the sheep of the flock who have outlived their teeth. The sheared sheep go to the fields to feed a little, if it be fine weather, and they return in the evening to pass the night in the yard before the house, within the shelter of the walls ; but if it be cold and cloudy, they go into the house. They are thus brought by degrees to bear the open air ; and their first days journeys from the shearing house to the mountains are short : where we will leave them to conclude their annual peregrination, and go see how fare the flocks of Molina Arragon, which have by this time got thither. But while the mule is saddling, a word of the shorn wool.

“ The sheep and shearers dispatched, the first thing done

is, to weigh the whole pile of wool: the next is, to divide each fleece into three sorts of wool; the back and belly give the superfine; the neck and sides give the fine; the breasts, shoulders, and thighs, the coarse wool. A different price is fixed upon three classes, though the general custom is, to sell the whole pile together at a mean price. It is sold after it is washed, when it is to go out of the kingdom, or to any considerable distance in it; for, as it never loses less than half its weight in washing, and often more when the sweating is violent, half the carriage is saved.

“Thirty-one leagues S. E. of Madrid, and five leagues S. of the source of the river Tagus, is the town of Molina Aragon, capital of a lordship of the crown, which is twelve leagues wide, as many long, and almost in the center of Spain. The highlands of this little territory are covered with pine trees; the lowlands feed about 150,000 sheep. Here I learnt some truths which prove that the three following opinions should be ranked among vulgar errors.

“1. That sheep eat and love aromatic plants, and that the flesh of those that feed on hills where sweet herbs abound, has a fine taste.

“2. That salt springs are not found in the high primitive mountains, but in the low hills and plains only.

“3. The metallic vapours destroy vegetation, that no rocks nor mountains, pregnant with rich veins of ore, are covered with rich vegetable soil.

“As my duty obliged me to pass hundreds of days at the Platillo mine of Molina, I saw thousands of sheep feed around it. I observed that, when the shepherd made a pause, and let them feed at their will, they sought only for the fine grass, and never touched any aromatic plant; that when the creeping serpillum was interwoven with the grass, the sheep industriously nosed it aside to bite a blade, which trouble made them soon seek out a pure graminous spot. I observed too, when the shepherd perceived a threatening cloud, and gave a signal to the dogs to collect the tribe, and then to go behind it, walking apace himself to lead the sheep to shelter, that, as they had no time to stoop, they would take a snap of *stoechas* rosemary, or any other shrub in their way; for sheep will eat any thing when they are hungry, or when they walk fast. I saw them greedily devour henbane, hemlock, glaucium, and other nauseous weeds, upon their issue out of the shearing-house. If sheep loved aromatic plants it would be one of the greatest misfortunes that could befall the farmers of Spain. The number of bee-hives is incredible. I am almost ashamed to give under my hand that I knew a parish priest who had 5000 hives. The bees suck all their

their honey and gather all their wax from the aromatic flowers, which enamel and perfume two thirds of the sheep-walks. This priest cautiously seizes the queens in a small crape fly-catch; he clips of their wings; their majesties stay at home. He assured me that he never lost a swarm from the day of this discovery to the day he saw me, which I think was five years.

“The shepherd’s chief care, is not to suffer the sheep to go out of their toils till the morning sun has exhaled the dew of a white frost, and never let them approach a rivulet or pond after a shower of hail; for if they should eat the dewy grass, or drink hail-water, the whole tribe would become melancholy, fast pine away, and die, as often happened. Hail-water is so pernicious to men in this climate, that the people of Molina will not drink the river water after a violent shower of hail; experience taught the danger: but let it be ever so muddy, and rise ever so high after rain, they drink it without fear. Perhaps this may be the unheeded cause of many endemical epidemics of other cities. The sheep of Andalusia, who never travel, have coarse, long, hairy wool. I saw a flock in Estramadura, whose wool trailed on the ground. The itinerant sheep have short, silky, white wool. I do believe, from a few experiments, and long observation, that, if the fine-woolled sheep staid at home in the winter, their wool become coarse in a few generations. If the coarse woolled sheep travelled from climate to climate, and lived in the free air, their wool would become fine, short, and silky, in a few generations.

“The fineness of the wool is due to the animal’s passing its life in an open air of equal temperature. It is not colder in Andalusia and Estramadura in the winter, than it is in the Montano or Molina in summer. There is little frost in Andalusia. Sometimes it snows in June in Molina. I felt a cold day upon the least cloud in summer. Constant heat, or constant cold, with housings, are the causes of coarse, black and speckled wool. All the animals, I know, who live in the open air, constantly keep up to the colour of their furs. There are the most beautiful brindled sheep in the world among the coarse-woolled sheep of Spain. I never saw one amongst the fine-woolled flock. The free, but less abundant perspiration in the open air, is swept away as fast as it flows, whereas it is greatly increased by the excessive heat of numbers of sheep, housed all night in a narrow place. It fouls the wool, makes it hairy, and changes its colour. The swine of Spain, who pass their lives in the woods, are all of one colour, as the wild boars. They have fine, silky curled bristles. Never did a Spanish hog’s bristle pierce a

shoe. What a quantity of dander is daily secreted from the glands of a stabled horse: the curry-comb and hair cloth ever in hand: How clean is the skin of a horse that lives in the open air!"

Richard Twiss, Esq; who has lately published travels through Portugal and Spain, agrees with the gentleman above quoted, and gives us the following passage on that subject: "March 11. The road over which we travelled this day, was somewhat hilly; we arrived at noon, at the city of Segovia, which stands on a hill, at the foot of which runs the small river Eresma. Segovia is walled, and is about eighty miles distant from Valladolid. Between Olmedo and this city we saw vast numbers of sheep, the wool of which is accounted the finest in Spain. I made enquiry about the sheep walks, and concerning the method of managing these animals, of which a very just account is given by the Abbe de la Porte, in the sixteenth volume of his *Voyageur Francois*, printed in Paris in 1772. It is as follows:

"Numberless flocks of sheep cover the plains of Segovia, and produce that excellent wool, which makes such an important branch of the commerce of Spain. The kings were antiently the proprietors of the greatest part of these flocks; they have been successively alienated for state exigences. Philip I. was obliged to sell the last fourteen thousand sheep, which belonged to the crown, to defray the expences of war. They are, however, still the object of the government's particular attention: In effect, there is a considerable exportation of wool, which is used all over Europe. Does its superiority depend only on the climate, or on a particular method of managing the sheep? Those that embrace the latter opinion say, that there are in Spain two sorts of sheep, very different in their fleece, though they appear to be of the same breed. The sheep with coarse fleeces remain all the year in the same place, and in the winter nights they are shut up in a fold. On the contrary, the others live always in the open air, and travel twice a-year. During the summer they stray on the mountains of Leon, of old Castile, of Cuenca, and of Arragon: They pass the winter on the temperate plains of la Mancha, Estramadura, and Andalusia. According to very exact calculations, there are reckoned in Spain, more than five millions of those travelling sheep with fine wool. It may easily be imagined how much care, intelligence, and activity is requisite from those who have the charge of conducting those vast flocks.

"They must take particular heed not to let them want salt, especially after their return from the south to their summer pasturages. That commodity keeps them in health, and hardens their constitution, which contributes infinitely to  
the



the beauty of the wool. After having passed the winter in a temperate climate, they set out in the month of April for the mountains.

“ The sheep themselves show their desire of changing their place, by many unquiet motions ; and that desire is so strong, that the shepherds must be very watchful to prevent their escaping.

“ They begin to shear them in the month of May, either on the road or after their arrival. It is necessary to wait for fine weather ; for if their wool was not dry enough, the fleeces being piled on each other would ferment and spoil. Towards the end of July, the number of rams necessary for propagation are mixed with the sheep. Six or seven rams are sufficient for a hundred sheep : Out of a numerous flock of rams, the strongest and handsomest are chosen for that purpose. There are in general very few sheep in these travelling flocks, though their wool is finer, and their flesh better than that of the rams, but the fleece of these is heavier, they live longer, and by that means their total product is more considerable. It is esteemed very essential to besmear these animals in the month of September, from the neck to the root of the tail, with a ferruginous earth mixed with water. It is said that this unguent, mixing with the grease of the wool, becomes impenetrable to rain and to cold, and that it absorbs part of the transpiration, which would otherwise render the fleece rough and coarse. At the end of September the sheep begin their march towards the lower plains. They travel one hundred and fifty leagues in forty days, when the time comes that the sheep drop their lambs, the shepherds first separates those which are sterile from those which are fruitful : These are guided to the best places of shelter, and those to the coldest parts of the district. The spots which produce the best and most abundant herbs, are also allotted for the youngest lambs ; that, by being fortified with good food, they may be able to depart with the others. The tail is cut off within five inches of the rump to keep them the cleaner. It is an error to believe that the sheep prefer aromatic plants to others, and that they are more beneficial to them. It is the tender herbs that grow between those plants, that afford the most wholesome nourishment for them, and that gives a good taste to their flesh. They must never be led to feed till the sun has dissipated the morning dew, and must not be allowed to drink immediately after a hail storm, because that water, or wet grass, renders them melancholy, and makes them languish and die.

“ It appears then to be certain that the superiority of the wool in this country is not to be attributed to the climate only ; and that it depends in a great measure on the precautions

tions above mentioned; because, in the same climate, the sheep of Andalusia, which are of the same breed, but which are not taken the like care of, have their wool much coarser. Would it be advantageous in other countries to allot large tracts of land for the pasturage of these animals; and would it be as much so to the proprietor, as if he had made those lands serve for other purposes? To these countries where lands are successively cultivated, flocks of sheep must be considered more for the use they are of to agriculture, than for their fleeces. Dung is there much more necessary than wool. The travelling sheep furnish no manure when they wander in the mountains, so that they must be confined together in lands which require cultivation."

Though I will not pretend to say, how far a similar conduct ought to be followed by the raisers of sheep in this country, with what is observed in Spain, as to their pasturing, yet I do humbly think, that several very useful hints may be gathered, by the sensible farmer, from a serious perusal of the above passages, particularly with regard to the proper time of slaughtering the sheep, when nature has so far deprived them of teeth, as to disable them from eating a sufficient quantity of food to fatten them; the observance of which, I am afraid, is, in general, but too little attended to. And, that even a trial of presenting salt to them, at different stages of their walks, as it would be an experiment attended with very little expence, so, if it should not answer every expectation conceived from it, might, at least, be tried without fear of danger. If salutary consequences were observed to arise from it, then the practice might be extended. At any rate, I could sincerely wish, that some gentlemen, or farmers of public-spirit, would make the experiment, upon a small part of their flock, and either continue or desist from it, as they saw it attended with or without success.

One thing material to be observed, however, is, that the Spahiards have long considered sheep, and their produce, to be the most valuable jewel in the crown. The English nation, whose wisdom no one will dispute, have been of the same opinion for many ages. They have, and with great reason, preferred the cultivation of wool, to mines of gold or silver, as it employed the heads and hands of the ingenious and industrious, and thereby brought a fund of wealth into their kingdom, which could not possibly be derived from any other source. Conscious of its being the staple and glory of England, they have ordered, that their supreme Judges, when convened together in the great council of the nation, should be seated on wool-packs; that care should be taken never to export any wool, till manufactured into cloth; that

none

none of the breed of their sheep should ever be allowed to be carried to foreign parts; that the exportation of either sheep or wool, should be a capital crime, and every person discovered to be any way concerned in it, despised, looked upon as an enemy to his country, and branded with infamy and disgrace. Nay, so far was their attention carried to the encouragement of this most valuable branch; (indeed, it is of more real consequence, and yields more profit, than all the trade of England besides) that they would not suffer their dead to be buried in linen, the staple of poor Scotland, but all in woollen, in order that the consumption of this valuable manufacture might not cease with the living, but even be sent to the grave with the dead. This wise nation hath been equally attentive to procure every ingredient made use of in the Woollen Manufacture at the cheapest rate. For this purpose, all drugs, dye-stuffs, and every other article made use of in that branch, is allowed to be imported into every part of Great Britain, free of any duty whatever; while our fancied, and visionary staple, the Linen, is burdened with a very high duty on every article made use of in its manufacture, the rough flax alone excepted, and even on it the charge is considerable. But of this in its proper place

Before I conclude this section, which perhaps has already swelled to too great a length, I must be forgiven to say a few words in answer to some objections that have been started, as to encreasing the number of sheep in this country. I have been told, that some gentlemen think, if the number of sheep were increased, it would lower the price of mutton, and consequently lessen the value of their land. This opinion, however, I will beg leave to say, proceeds entirely upon a mistake; for the wool alone, exclusive of the mutton, will be fully sufficient to enable the tenants to pay their present rents; and, if the mutton were reduced to half the price it now bears, the advantages that would thereby accrue to the manufacturer, and the country in general, would be immense. It is well known, that the cheaper we can bring our goods to a foreign market, the more certain we are of getting them disposed of. It is equally well known, that, in a country where provisions are dear, the price of labour must be proportionally so. If, therefore, the one can be reduced, the other naturally, and of consequence, falls likewise; so that I humbly conceive, at the same time that the landed gentlemen can suffer nothing by the increase of sheep the manufacturer, and the country in general, cannot fail of receiving great benefit from it. But, supposing so many sheep to be fed as to overstock our own market, I can see

no bad consequences which could arise from that circumstance, as the overplus could be salted and sent to foreign markets, where it would be certain of a ready sale. The most northern settlement in Europe, I mean Iceland, belonging to the king of Denmark, follows this practice. I have purchased salt mutton at Copenhagen, which had been brought from that place, the fattest I ever saw, and I can say with great truth, it proved excellent provision. Let us not, therefore, be deterred from increasing the number of our sheep, from the apprehension of its decreasing the value of our land, or overstocking the market. The former can never happen; and, if the latter should, a new branch of trade will thereby be established, which may give employment to an additional number of hands, and bring money into the country. It may likewise be objected to increasing the number of our sheep, that we shall thereby diminish the number of acres at present occupied in corn-land. But, to this I answer, that millions of additional sheep may be raised, without incroaching upon a single acre, capable of bearing corn, or rearing black cattle; for sheep can feed to advantage, where neither the one nor the other will thrive, nor can any thing sooner bring land in, capable to bear corn, than having it previously pastured upon by sheep. Some speculative gentlemen, as I already observed, have attempted to raise corn upon grounds, where it is almost next to an impossibility it could ever ripen. Had they, instead thereof, stocked them with fine woolled sheep, their returns would have been much larger, and more certain, at the same time that they were contributing their share to the general good of the kingdom, by encreasing the quantity of wool, which I always thought, and shall now endeavour to convince my countrymen, ought to be the staple manufacture of this kingdom.

## SECTION



## SECTION II.

*Of the WOOLLEN MANUFACTORY. That it is the natural Staple of Scotland, and therefore ought to be encouraged, by every true lover of his country, in all its various branches.*

WHATEVER material is the natural production of any country, we may reasonably conclude the cultivation and the manufacturing of it, into such commodities as the inhabitants cannot do without, and may export to foreign nations with advantage, is preferable to any other material, which cannot boast of these advantages.

It is for this reason that I have, from the first moment I was capable of forming any rational ideas of trade, been firmly convinced, that my countrymen have all along been pursuing a phantom in the Linen Manufacture, while they have totally disregarded, or very much overlooked, that real and substantial source of trade, which they would have found in the Woollen Manufacture, and which it never can be too late eagerly to follow after.

To combat an inveterate custom, I am not insensible, is a very bold, and a very hazardous undertaking. If that custom, however, from the experience of ages, shall have been found a most prejudicial one to the interests of the community, I have too high an opinion of the good sense of my countrymen to imagine, that the endeavours of an individual, to point out the evils attending it, and the advantages which might be derived by adopting a different conduct, will meet with their disapprobation.

In these hopes, and from a consciousness of the great superiority of the Woollen Manufacture over the Linen, were equal encouragement given to both, I have adventured, upon many different occasions, to point out the advantages of the one, and the almost insurmountable clogs and difficulties which are the attendants of the other. I have already observed, in the former Section of this work, that this country is fit, with very little foreign aid, to raise up a breed of sheep. equal to those of our neighbouring kingdom, or, perhaps, any other country. If we should stand in need of a finer species of wool, than what can be produced from our own  
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sheep, that can be easily attained, and shall be taken notice of in its proper place. But, perhaps, before going further, it may not be improper here to point out the disadvantages attending the prosecution of the Linen Manufacture, to so great an extent as we have hitherto done, as from thence it will more evidently appear, how far the Woollen Manufacture must surpass the Linen, in every substantial and real advantage.

To begin, then, with flax. This great and fundamental article, if the Manufacturer means to have such as is fit for his purpose, he must commission from some port in the Baltic, or from Holland. Another article which he is under the necessity of bringing from abroad, is Pearl and Pot Ashes. For the satisfaction of those, who may not be acquainted with mercantile affairs, I must beg leave to lay before them, the charges attending the importing a cargo of these articles. They are as follows:

	<i>per cent.</i>
For a cargo of flax, shipped at St. Petersburg, Riga, or any other port in the Baltic, commission	2 <i>per cent.</i>
port-charges, shipping charges and Sound dues,	2 1-half <i>per cent.</i>
Insurance, at a medium, through the season,	3 1-half <i>per cent.</i>
freight to Leith	1 1-half <i>per cent.</i>
Loss, by dry damage, at a medium, and short, useless flax, packed so that it cannot be discovered,	5
Sea-damage, that the under-writers are not liable to pay; for they don't pay under 5,	3 1-2
FLAX. Shore dues at Leith, portorage, custom-house charges,	1-half <i>per cent.</i>
ware-house rent, and weigh-house dues,	1-4th <i>per cent.</i>
	<hr/> 0 3-4
In all,	18 3-8

*Charges on a cargo of Pearl and Pot Ashes.*

	<i>per cent.</i>
Commission	2 <i>per cent.</i>
port-charges, shipping, and Sound dues,	2 1-half <i>per cent.</i>
Insurance, at a medium,	3 1-half <i>per cent.</i>
freight to Leith,	2 <i>per cent.</i>
Loss by sea-damage, which the under-writers do not pay,	4
Duties,	25
Portorage, cartage, shore-dues, cooperage, custom-house fees, weigh-house, &c.	1 1-4
	<hr/> 40 1-4
In all,	The

The same charges attend wed and wood ashes; only they are not so liable to damage at sea, nor are the duties near so high as on the pot and pearl ashes; but it equally affects the value, as they are much cheaper in price. The flax from Holland is not loaded with such high charges and freight as from the Baltic; but even from Holland it will be equal to six or seven *per cent.* This is but a small part of the trade; for the bulk of flax used in Scotland is imported from the Baltic.

*The charges on Flax from Holland are,*

	<i>per cent.</i>
Commission 2 <i>per cent.</i> shipping charges and port-charges, 1 1-half <i>per cent.</i>	3 1-2
Insurance through the season 1 1-4th <i>per cent.</i> freight to Leith 1-4th <i>per cent.</i>	1 1-2
Loss that the under-writers do not pay, 1 <i>per cent.</i> portorage, cartage, shore-dues, 1 4th <i>per cent.</i> custom-house fees, and petty charges, 1-8th <i>per cent.</i>	1 3-8
In all,	6 3-8

From these schemes, which I am certain no one will say is unjust in the minutest article, it will be observed, that for every article imported for the use of the Linen Manufacture, flax only excepted, no less duty than 25 *per cent.* of its real value, is paid by the importer; and, though it may be said, that, as no duty is paid on the flax itself, and, consequently a sufficient encouragement is thereby afforded to the Linen Manufacturers to carry on that branch of business, I would be glad to know if those whom they employ to purchase this article, furnish them with such flax as they manufacture themselves? or, if, after all, they can make such a profit, as to make the hands they employ live with any degree of comfort? I am positive they do not: for the flax that is made use of in Silesia is of a far superior quality to any I ever saw brought to this country; and I am fully persuaded every other country from whence we receive that commodity, will be equally attentive to their own interest in not exporting the best of the commodity which they manufacture at home. But I am aware of the answer which will be made here. It may be said, we can cultivate flax ourselves; and the Trustees have given us every encouragement to do so. This last proposition I will not deny. The Trustees have indeed carried their encouragement to a height, which,

I hope, more mature consideration will induce them to put a stop to. They have made many of our farmers sacrifice the best of their ground to the raising of flax, for the sake of their premiums, which otherwise might have been employed in corn-land, much to the advantage of themselves, and the country in general; but from which, by this new and exotic culture, they must have been egregious losers, had not the largeness of the premium indemnified them for the price of labour and land, though it cannot be disputed that the last was thereby totally lost to the community.

As to our cultivating flax ourselves, at least to any good purpose, I will venture to say, it is an attempt fraught with the highest absurdity. This, nor any other island, that ever I knew, Ireland excepted, is proper for the growth of flax. I will beg leave to give my reasons for this opinion very shortly. In all islands the weather is very changeable, and the snow in Scotland never lies a sufficient time to keep the frost out of the ground; neither is our heat in spring sufficient to warm it, so as to make it fit for the reception of the seed; and vegetation, of consequence, ceases. I cannot better exemplify this, than by informing my readers, that last summer, having taken a journey to the North, in order to visit a gentleman, whose assiduity in promoting the manufactures of his country is well known, and whose memory will be venerated by after ages; I saw, in perhaps the finest country in Scotland for the purpose, several fine fields plowed down, which had been sown with flax, at a great labour and expence, but which, unhappily for the deluded farmer, yielded no crop whatever. Had last spring been an intolerably cold one, this might have been pleaded as a reason for the failure; but every one knows, that a more promising and warm spring has not happened for many years past. I likewise paid particular attention to the flax I saw growing betwixt Perth and Aberdeen, and do fairly acknowledge I would not have taken a compliment of the whole, had I been put to no other expence than that of being obliged to dress and manufacture it. Indeed, the thing that is called **FLAX**, of the growth of this country, does not deserve the name, nor will be considered as such, by any person who has been in a country where real flax grows. It is in the Eastern countries of Europe where the best flax is produced: there the frost never touched the ground since the creation, nor ever will; for, about the middle of October the snow falls, perhaps from two to three feet thick, often more. Immediately after the frost sets in, and freezes the snow so firm, that carriages go over it the whole winter, without breaking the crust. Towards



wards the middle of March, the heat of the sun dissolves the snow, when vegetation commences more rapidly than any one can imagine who has not seen it. The ground is thereby rendered like a hot-bed, and being so manured by the snow, the flax-seed, and barley sown in these grounds, will be ready to reap in seven or eight weeks after sowing. It often happens that no rain falls all the time the flax is growing, neither is there any need of the ground being much moistened, as the plant covers it in so short a time as to screen the earth from the great heat and drought. Nay, it sometimes happens, that not a cloud is to be seen for many weeks together in these climates; nothing but constant sunshine and fine pleasant summer weather. But it would be in vain to expect this in lands lying in the middle of the ocean; and, therefore, I would fain flatter myself with the hope, that the Board of Trustees, being once convinced, that this country is no ways adapted for the raising of flax, would desist from offering any more premiums for the culture of that exotic, as I am fully persuaded it is so far from answering any good purpose, that it has an effect entirely the reverse, and tends only to make the farmer, for the honour and regard of the premium, which, by the bye, will do little more than indemnify him for his labour and expence, neglect his sowing so many acres with corn, which might have afforded cheap bread to our labouring poor.

As a further argument, to show that flax is not a plant of this country, and ought not to be cultivated, let it be remembered, that you cannot sow the seed raised by your own growth of flax for this year, so as to hope for any crop that will pay your labourers for the next; and, if you continue it three years, though you change the place of the country any where within Scotland, it will scarce come above the ground. Nay, do we not daily see processes before the Court of Session, between the Dutch merchants and those of our own country, for the price of flax-seed furnished by the former to the latter; and is not their defence for not payment this, That having sold the cargo to different farmers in the country, allowed the usual credit given on such occasions, and they having laboured and sown the ground with it, no crop whatever followed, for which reason they would not pay the Scots merchant the price stipulated; and consequently, it would be extremely hard, were they found liable to the Dutch merchant for a cargo, from the sale of which they never drew a penny. I will not take upon me to say, how far this would be a good defence for the Scots merchant. The circumstance, however, of the flax never appearing above

bove the ground, undoubtedly afforded the farmer a good reason for withholding payment from the Scots merchant, as he not only was deprived of the crop he expected, but likewise lost all his labour, and the use of his ground for that year. When such are the uncertainties attending the raising of flax in this country, it is surely high time to give up the practice; for the most skillful cannot promise, upon seeing the seed, but what it is in every respect good and wholesome, while, at the same time, it may be dead, and useless to all intents and purposes. This was expressly the case in one of the processes above alluded to. A proof was taken as to the quality of the seed, when shipped from Holland. People, knowing in these matters, gave evidence, that it had every appearance of good seed at that time. It was proved to have received no damage at sea; and several persons, who were deemed proper judges, gave it the highest character, after it came into the Scots merchant's possession. There it received no prejudice; and yet not a single vestige of it was to be seen, after being put into the ground, though sown by many different farmers in the county of Moray, which is known to contain as rich good ground as any in Scotland.

I have been the more particular on this subject, as I would sincerely wish to convince the gentlemen and farmers of the impropriety of taking up their valuable grounds with an article so extremely uncertain and dangerous; and, as I am certain, flax, much preferable to any which can be raised in this country, in the most favourable seasons, and from the most luxuriant crops, may be had upon easier terms from those countries where flax is a natural plant.

It was never my intention to dissuade those who are already engaged in the Linen Manufacture, to give up that branch altogether; but to get out of it slowly, and apply more to the Woollen. Linens, for our own consumption, ought certainly to be made at home, and even some for our neighbours the English; but these should be of a coarse quality, and from foreign flax. The Scots manufacturer cannot make daily bread by working fine linen, and selling it in the English market; neither need we imagine to make linen that will bring a proper profit, by exportation to any country abroad, or to our own plantations.

This would be a very absurd idea, while Germany, and the Eastern countries, continue our rivals in that branch; for they are, and will probably ever be, able to undersell us, both as to price and quality, 30 per cent. It is not then to be supposed, that the Americans, or West Indians, will purchase

chafe from us, when they can be supplied with German linens, at the Dutch and Danish freeports in the West Indies, upon much better terms. No restriction that can be laid on trade, by our laws, will prevent this; indeed, the temptation is too great to be withstood.

Experience ought to have convinced us, long before this time, that the Linen Manufacture, instead of being a lucrative, was in many instances a losing trade, especially the finer sorts of it, which we have been in use of sending to the London and foreign markets. I dare venture to say, that the manufacturers of fine linen, thus exported, have, upon an average, been losers by the trade, at the rate of 4 d. per yard; so that the more hundred thousand yards which have been made and sent abroad, as the staple of the country, have been at the loss of an equal number of fourpences, besides the price of materials paid to foreigners. Surely such a trade, if it was meant to give employment to our poor, was the very worst which could possibly be thought of; for, while the masters were losers by the business, it was not to be expected they should be able to afford such wages to their journeymen, as to make them live with any degree of decency; but, on the contrary, it is well known, these poor people's pittance has been so truly scanty, for a number of years back, that it has required the most parsimonious economy to preserve them from starving altogether.

The British Linen Company made the trial of this branch, and with the best appearance of success. That Company had the greatest support which ever was afforded to any undertaking attempted in this country. Their directors were composed of gentlemen the most sensible and knowing. Their servants honest, and some of them very alert, witness Mr. W. T--d; yet all would not do. I had the honour to be acquainted with some of the gentlemen who were in the direction some years ago. I have furnished the company with ships for several seasons to bring home their flax. My poor opinion has often been asked by some gentlemen, largely concerned in this trade. I was always uniform and explicit, that it could not support itself.—The money that has gone out of this country, (and it is all cash) in my time, to pay flax, and flax-seed, to Holland and Russia, is so immense, that it is almost beyond credibility. I know, very nearly, the sum that has been remitted, for these twenty years past, to Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Hamburgh, for these articles; but it is so very large, that I do not chuse to mention it, as it would stagger the belief of the most credulous. The sum paid for pot, pearl, weed and wood ashes, &c. has likewise been

been far from being inconsiderable. This trade, I am persuaded, has carried more money out of Scotland in my time, than all our foreign trade put together; for the French and Spaniards take our goods in exchange for their commodities; but those who supply us with flax, flax-seed, &c. take nothing but ready money. It is to this cause, therefore, that I must attribute the great scarcity of cash, and of the London and Dutch exchange being so much against us. As there have been less of these articles, however, imported within these two years past, the exchange has become more moderate, which is an evident proof of my assertion being well founded. That I am equally so, with regard to the advantages that must attend a less vigorous exertion in favours of the Linen, and a proper application being made to that of the Woollen manufacture, I shall endeavour to make evident in its proper place.

My knowledge of what put the *political* spinning wheels in motion, is not of yesterday. It was Archibald Earl of Illy, afterwards Duke of Argyle, who long held the reins of the political system of this country, that gave birth to this Utopean scheme, and he had able and good men to manage for him; but they were chained to his party. It is far from my intention to say any thing disrespectful to the memory of that nobleman. He was undoubtedly a very great man, and an ornament to this country; but the doctrine then was, *Keep the people poor, and they will be dependent*; nor could a more proper device, for that purpose, possibly be thought of, than employing them in the Linen branch. This I have frequently taken the liberty of mentioning to some of the leading men of those days, with whom I had the honour of being acquainted; but words or writing, at that period, were of no avail. The answer to every thing offered on so unpopular a subject was, We must not disoblige the English: the Woollen is their great staple, with which we must by no means interfere, otherwise they will be offended, and then we shall get neither bounties nor premiums. A *patriotic* doctrine this, it may be said; but such was the case. Something more, however, was necessary, to make the delusion go down. The counties and burghs were supplied with plenty of British Linen Company notes, which they were made to believe was equivalent to cash. Large quantities of flax, flax-seed, wheels, reels, flax-mills and *wind-mills*, were likewise poured in among them, in order to carry on a trade, that never did, nor ever can support itself, if credit, at least, can be given to forty years experience. Bleachfields were erected, and premiums given to those who could raise  
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the most flax, &c. Provost such-an-one, with the assistance of the Dean of Guild, Convener, and Deacons of Crafts, were appointed to have the direction of the district next to their respective burghs. Fealts were given to these gentry, flax, &c. put into their hands. Bounties, premiums, and what not, were sounded in their ears. Bleachfields were encouraged, though they were forbidden the use of lime or pigeons dung. Something instead thereof behoved to be substitute, which would force the linen to a sudden whiteness, and, at the same time, be less expensive than soap or any soft materials. Spirit of vitriol, or some such pernicious materials were made use of, in order to enable them to bleach cheap. One devil was made to drive out another. It is softened with the name of *Cil* of Vitriol; and many large bottles are used by some bleachers, I do not say by all of them; but it is sure to extract the oils out of the yarn, and to burn the cloth. This has had a great effect in ruining the character of the linens made in this country; and many an honest house wife, who makes for her own family use, severely feels the bad tendency of this new invented method of whitening cloth. Chymists, indeed, say, that it may be used in small quantities by skillful hands; so may poison and brandy to the human body; the operation is slow but sure. If cloth is bleached with soap and ashes, it will last double the time of that which is forced white with a spirit that will corrode iron.

These, and many more which might be mentioned, are the disadvantages that attend a too extensive concern in the linen trade; or, in other words, making it the staple of this country. At the same time, I am far from thinking, as I have already hinted, that the manufacturing of linen should be entirely laid aside, or that some kinds of it may not be carried on much to the advantage of the manufacturer, as well as to the country in general. But let us not attempt to supply London, or any foreign market, with the fine white Linen article, as we are by no means capable of rivalling other countries who deal in that branch. Encouragement undoubtedly ought to be given to the thin, low priced linen, manufactured in the counties of Fife, Perth, Angus, &c. as well as to that species carried on at Paisley, &c. and to the linen yarn, manufactured in the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, &c. which has a ready and extensive sale at Nottingham, and other manufacturing towns in England, and has brought a great deal of money into the country. The Paisley branch requires little flax to carry it on, and our own flax, if we must continue to raise it, will answer almost all the other

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purposes. These articles have long had an established and ready sale at London and other foreign markets; and though they should be extended, would be equally successful. It is to them, therefore, that the attention of the Linen manufacturer should be entirely directed, and not to the fine white linen which nature has deprived us of the means of making equal to other countries, who are our avowed rivals in that branch.

I have dwelt thus long upon the article of the Linen Manufacture, as many, for what reason I am at a loss to conceive, have imagined, that I proposed it should be given up altogether, which was far from being my intention. So far was I from being an enemy to the Linen Manufacture, that upwards of twenty years ago, I prevailed upon one of the greatest men in the country, Mr. Oswald of Dunnikier, to apply to administration for having the duties on all the materials imported for the Linen Manufacture taken off, and likewise the duties on hemp; but this application proved abortive. My great objection to it, therefore, as this could not be effected and which still remains with me, was, that we were pushing it too far, while the Woollen Manufactory not subject to any duty whatever, was totally neglected, which I have long thought ought to be the staple of this country.

In the former Section, I took occasion to point out the many advantages which Scotland enjoyed over most other countries, with regard to her great abundance of sheep-pasture. I shall now endeavour to shew, that it is equally favoured by Providence with every other article requisite for carrying on the Woollen Manufactory, and that therefore this branch ought to be prosecuted with vigour, and in preference to any other.

It would be needless to recapitulate all these here. I shall only mention the three capital ones. The Wool, which we may increase to any quantity we please; or, if it should not prove possible to improve the breed of sheep to that degree, as to render it so fine as is requisite for some purposes, we can commission and receive such from Spain, upon as easy terms as our neighbours. Firing is very much used in almost every article manufactured from wool. This Scotland in general, a very few places excepted, is abundantly supplied with, and at an expence far below our neighbours the English. The price of labour, likewise, is much less than what it is in our neighbouring country.

These, did we possess no other advantages, were sufficient, of themselves, to encourage us to hope for success in the  
Woollen

Woollen Manufactory. But these, great as they are, do not comprehend all that we enjoy even above the English, who have carried that branch higher than any country in Europe. Let us then set about it, in good earnest, and not listen to the delusive arguments of the narrow minded, or self-interested, who would insinuate, that, if we interfere too far in the staple of England, they will be offended, and refuse to take those articles from us, with which we have long been in use of supplying them. This, I am certain, will not be the case: for, however contracted the notions of such people in this country may be, the English are endowed with a more liberal way of thinking, and have juster ideas of trade, than to refuse to deal with any country, because that country may attempt to supply themselves with what they formerly commissioned from England; or even to rival them in a particular branch. But this last can never be the case, with regard to the Woollen manufacture of this country; for, I dare venture to affirm, that, if it is properly attended to, let us manufacture as much as we possibly can, the English trade will not suffer in the smallest degree, but may even be extended; as a friendly junction of the United Kingdoms in the Woollen branch, could not fail of driving the French, Dutch, and indeed every other nation, entirely out of the foreign markets, which would be an acquisition of great importance; while Ireland, by the same means, might enjoy, in a manner unrivalled, the Linen Manufacture, which is properly her staple. This would encourage the Irish to send all their wool to Britain, most part of which, it is well known, is now smuggled to France or Holland, where it is manufactured into cloth, and by which means, these nations are alone enabled to rival England abroad this important branch. The advantages which might thence accrue to Great Britain and Ireland, would be so numerous, and cannot fail of being so self-evident, that it would be trespassing on the patience of the reader here to enumerate them.

Having said so much on the Woollen Manufacture in general, I shall now proceed to point out the particular branches which might be carried on, no less to the emolument of the private undertaker, than to the great benefit of the whole kingdom.

The first which I shall mention, as being the principal article, is that of the *Broad Cloth*; the great material for making of which, from 2 s. 6 d. to 13 s. 6 d. per yard, is the produce of our own country at present; and, if the laudable endeavours of the noblemen and gentlemen, already taken  
notice



notice of, for improving our breed of sheep, shall be crowned with success, which I hope they will, we may soon expect to be in possession of wool proper for manufacturing cloth of any fineness. But, should this prove impracticable, we are still in no worse situation than our neighbours, as we can be supplied with Spanish wool, for our superfine cloths, on as easy terms as any nation in Europe. Every other material we may equally well be supplied with; nor is there any deficiency of heads or hands for carrying on the work; for our people in general have as good geniuses, are as quick in their apprehensions, and as steady to their plans, as any people upon earth. I was always told, that we behoved to get people from our sister country, to aid us in carrying on this most beneficial and useful manufacture; but, upon enquiry, and an investigation of facts, I find nothing of that kind is wanted, as we have people well skilled in every part of that business, from sheering the sheep to bringing cloth of all dyes to market, from black to the finest scarlet, buff, and all colours that are done in England, and at a much less expence. I even find, that the business of dyeing, and most other branches, have been carried on in England, by our own countrymen, many of whom are at the head of the profession. In short, the whole operation of this valuable manufacture can be carried on, not only in this metropolis and neighbourhood, but in most parts of Scotland, if the noblemen and gentlemen afforded their countenance and support, by taking the goods when brought to market.

And here it affords me a most sensible pleasure, as it must every lover of his country, to observe a number of noblemen and gentlemen of the first estimation in the kingdom, not only giving their aid, by purchasing the manufactures of Scotland, but, upon some public occasions, wearing nothing else. One would think the examples of such distinguished personages would diffuse a general spirit of emulation through the whole kingdom, and that every individual would vie with his neighbour, in taking this method of promoting the happiness and prosperity of his country. This would indeed be public spirited: It would be real Patriotism; very unlike that detestable spirit, which, falsely assuming that name, has gone forth and spread wide and extensive over our neighbouring kingdom, as well as the colonies, throwing every thing, so far as its baneful influence has reached, into anarchy and confusion. The patriotism, however, which I would fondly hope should take place in this country, is of a very different nature. Instead of diffusing into the minds of the common people a notion that government is acting tyrannically



nically towards America, let us supply them with plenty of work, which will be much better employment for them than politics, with which they have no earthly concern, and to which I am certain they have not so strong an attachment as their brethren in England. The one will afford a comfortable subsistence for themselves and families, while the other, at the same time that it cannot fail of distracting their weak understandings, if want of business should give them leisure to think of such matters, must eventually bring them to rags and beggary.

A similar commendable public spirit, I am happy to inform my readers, has been also adopted by a very respectable body of our countrymen, I mean the gentlemen and farmers of East Lothian. They have long observed, with regret, the decayed state of our Woollen Manufacture, which they justly considered as the staple, particularly in their own county, which is every way so well adapted for carrying it on. There indeed, it has been attempted for near a century past; and though little advantage has accrued to the country in general, owing partly to mismanagement, and partly to political causes, yet individuals have been supported by it in a very decent manner. The worthy gentlemen and farmers of that country, sensible of the truth of this fact, are resolved, that all the obstacles, hitherto thrown in the way of the Woollen Manufacture, shall not damp their patriotic spirit. For this purpose they have entered into a copartnery, and appointed Messrs. Sawers and Hamilton, two gentlemen of knowledge and abilities in their profession, to carry on the work. The plan of this copartnery is perhaps one of the best which could possibly be devised. There is scarce a single head of a family in the whole county, who has it not in his power to become a partner, as subscriptions, so low as five pounds, are received, and intitle the subscriber to every privilege and benefit which the highest can enjoy. At the same time, to prevent undue influence, and that the middling and lower ranks may not be overawed by the rich, no single person is allowed to subscribe above 100*l*. It is also provided, that none of the managers shall ever interfere either in the politics of the county, or the burghs, very bad consequences having formerly been experienced from such conduct; as it is well known election matters are frequently carried on with great warmth, and create heart-burnings, which do not soon subside, even among very near friends and connections. A company, therefore, whose existence, in a great measure, depends upon the unanimity of the whole members of which it is composed, should guard against every possible

possible chance of being disunited. It is not their interest, for the sake of making one friend, to run the risque of creating a number of enemies. They should rather cultivate a good understanding with every one; and there surely can be no better method of continuing it, than to steer clear of being concerned with any particular party, especially in political matters. This resolution, I must therefore, think highly commendable, and while it is strictly observed, which I flatter myself will be the case, solicitations from either of the contending parties will not be made, and the company will thereby enjoy the countenance and encouragement of both.

This undertaking, I am persuaded, can hardly fail of success. They are in a great measure able to furnish the great article wool among themselves. No country is better situated for carrying on the manufacture, having plenty of fine water, and firing, in abundance, extremely cheap. They are a numerous, substantial body of men, and, though they should not meet with encouragement from other quarters, which is scarce to be supposed, will consume, in cloathing for themselves, their families and labourers, a quantity almost sufficient to give employment to all the idle hands in the country. Besides these advantages, this manufacture will open a new channel of business for their sons, whom they are often at a loss how to dispose of; and, considering the variety of operations necessary in such an undertaking, there is no poor person, from eight to sixty years of age, but may be usefully and beneficially employed in it. The sum required for this undertaking is only 3000*l.* sterling, and so highly advantageous is it thought by many capital houses in England, that were subscriptions to be received from that kingdom, the whole sum might have been procured in a few weeks. Proposals of that nature, however, were not listened to, as it is from the number of subscribers, that success is expected, and these, too, residing in the same county.

The author of a late publication, entitled *Eight Sets of Queries, by a Peer of the Realm*, has been pleased to give me the honour of being the projector and principal promoter of this scheme, and has likewise been so partial to my poor endeavours in the service of my country, as to bestow many compliments upon me on that account. The testimony of so great and sensible a writer in my favours, I must own has afforded me much pleasure; nor do I pretend to be so self-denied, as not candidly to acknowledge, that, next to the satisfaction I receive in beholding the improvements of my country, the good opinion of such as this Right Honourable author of my conduct, holds the second place in my mind.

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At the same time that I would recommend the most serious perusal of these elegant and sensible *Queries* to the inhabitants of this country, I must beg leave to inform the author of them, that, though I did propose the scheme above taken notice of, at a very numerous meeting of the gentlemen farmers of East Lothian, yet, let it be remembered to their honour, that they cordially, and with one voice, approved and adopted it; so sensible were they, that it was the most effectual method of serving themselves and their country, that little sollicitation was requisite on my part. They met me more than half way; and therefore it would be presumption in me to take the whole credit of what they are so justly and eminently entitled to.

I will readily acknowledge, that though it is with the highest pleasure I observe some of the first nobility, and many gentlemen in high offices, and of great fortune, encouraging and promoting the Woollen Manufacture of their country, yet it is not from these alone, great as their influence and example undoubtedly ought to be, that I look for the establishment of this great staple. It is from the consumption of the gentlemen of moderate fortunes; from the farmers, traders, mechanics, and middling sort of people, that I expect to see our manufactures flourish. It was for this reason that I cast my eyes upon the county of East Lothian, as being the most proper to take the lead, in a matter of such vast national concern, on account of many advantages it possesses over most other counties in Scotland, for bringing the branch to perfection. But it was not my intention that the affair should rest there. Many other counties, in a short time, may be put upon a very respectable footing in this respect, as well as East Lothian, and I would humbly propose a similar conduct to be followed on their part. The farmers in East Lothian, indeed, I believe, in general, are more wealthy and substantial than those of most other counties in Scotland; it may therefore be necessary, perhaps, to make the scheme upon a narrower scale, and not to attempt the manufacturing of cloths of so fine a quality. Suppose the subscriptions in these counties should be so low as fifty shillings, and the highest not to exceed fifty pounds. This might raise a fund sufficient to set a manufactory a-going, which would supply themselves. If they afterwards saw that they could extend their trade to advantage, the capital might then be increased; and, I am persuaded, there are not wanting public spirited gentlemen in every county in Scotland, who would readily assist both with their purses and advice.

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The Trustees, of late, have likewise given some degree of countenance to the Woollen Manufacture. But, I am sorry to say, it is far from being such as might have been expected. They have offered premiums, but of so trifling a nature, especially for the Broad Cloth, that few people, I doubt, will be tempted thereby to become competitors. It would have been much better had they advertised some premiums to the merchant or manufacturer who should export the greatest quantity of Woollen cloth, and to the nobleman, gentleman, or farmer, who should bring the best rams into the country, for bettering our breed of fine woolled sheep. For the manufacturer and farmer, money might have been offered; and to the nobleman and gentleman, medals, expressive of what they were given for. A little of the public money, likewise, could not be better employed, than by sending a few sheep, shearers into some parts of the North of Scotland, the Orkneys, Zetland, &c. where, I am informed, they are in use to *row* their sheep, as they call it, that is, pull off the wool with their hands, much to the hurt of the sheep, as well as the wool. These sheep-shearers should be furnished with the proper implements for cutting the wool off the sheep, in the same manner as is practised in this country; and they should be directed to instruct them as to washing the sheep, cleansing the wool, and every operation necessary, particularly with regard to the dyeing the different colours, &c. I am convinced, these premiums would be of more real service to the country in one year, than all that has been given by the public to force on the *Linen Staple*, as some people are pleased to call it, since the Union.

So far back as the 23d of January last, I proposed that the Linen Hall, which is under the direction of the Trustees for Fisheries, Manufactures, &c. should take in Woollen cloth, in the same manner as the Linen cloth had been in use of being received; that 2-3ds of the value should be paid the proprietor, on delivery of the goods into the Hall, after being valued by people of skill; that the remainder of the price should be paid the owner, when turned into cash; and that no charge should be laid on the manufacturer, but the interest of the money advanced.

This would have enabled the manufacturers to have brought their goods to market at little expence, and supported them with money to carry on their trade. Which ever of the banks had afforded this supply, it could not have failed of turning out greatly to the advantage of the proprietors, as the honest tradesmen would not trouble them for cash, but take their notes and put them in the true circle, for which  
banking



banking was at first established. The security of pledges of a staple commodity, has always been esteemed the most certain fund. The practice of the most ancient banks is the best proof that can be given of its utility. Witness the banks of Amsterdam, Venice, and Hamburgh, who, adhering strictly to this maxim, receive no other security than real value pledged with them.

A few months after this, the Trustees accordingly ordered that Woollen goods should be received into their hall, on the same terms with the linen. But, I must be pardoned to say, that these are so very disadvantageous to the manufacturers, that, instead of affording them relief, it seems rather calculated to put money into the pockets of the servants in the hall; for the different charges they receive does not amount to less than *5 per cent.* upon every piece of linen cloth disposed of in that hall; a charge which the profits made upon linen, especially, can by no means bear; nay, I am certain, that many of the manufacturers of that commodity would think themselves very happy, could they clear *5 per cent.* altogether upon their trade. How absurd, therefore, must it be, in order to enrich one or two servants of the public, to distress the whole manufacturers of the kingdom? Would it not be much better to give these people a suitable salary, out of the public money, rather than thus to allow them to prey upon the industrious, and draw the profit which should fall to the share of the manufacturer, without which it is impossible he can support himself, his family and dependents? The Linen manufactory being thus distressed, which has long been the favourite of the Public, it is not to be wondered at, if the Woollen should experience the same, if not a worse fate. This has accordingly happened; not only are the same exorbitant *per cents.* demanded; but, what is most extraordinary indeed, and would scarce have entered into the imagination of any one, except those who think of nothing but their own private emolument, English Woollen goods are likewise received into our Scots Linen hall. A conduct like this, cannot well be accounted for. That a hall, opened for the sale and encouragement of the manufactures of Scotland, should be made a vehicle for the disposal of goods of another country, reflects very little credit upon the understandings or care of those entrusted with the public money; and, if so absurd a practice is not immediately put a stop to, the bad effects of it will be severely felt: for, I am persuaded, had those concerned in it bestowed their utmost pains to find out a method to crush our Woollen manufacture in its infancy, they could not possibly have fallen upon an expedient

ent which would more effectually answer the purpose. I am willing, however, to believe, that these proceedings have been carried on without the sanction, or even knowledge of the Board of Trustees. Too much has been entrusted to the servants in the office, relying on their faithfully discharging the trust reposed in them; but I have now the happiness of being informed, by some of the honourable members themselves, that they are seriously determined to give every aid in their power to the Woollen manufactory; that the distribution of the several premiums were left to the discretion of the acting officers; but that it was by no means intended by the Board, that they should have been classed in the disproportionate manner in which they at present stand; as it is certainly very ridiculous, that the same premium should be allowed for the best dozen of hats, which is offered for the six best pieces of broad cloth. The former might have been manufactured for twelve guineas, and the candidates should have been confined to such as they could sell at that sum, and have a living profit; while the latter cannot be manufactured at a sum greatly exceeding one hundred pounds sterling.

Though premiums, of this kind, are undoubtedly very necessary, to encourage those concerned in every manufactory in an infant state, yet I am far from thinking that these of themselves can do the business required, were the premiums ever so well adapted. It is the encouragement of the public at large which must bring every undertaking to perfection; and, as each individual is a part of that public, I hope they will no longer entertain an opinion, that because they are single, any effort of theirs can be of very little significance. This is by no means the case. Companies of people entering into associations to wear nothing but the manufactures of their own country, will no doubt have a more immediate effect on the consumption of these articles; but where individuals are perhaps unconnected with societies, and therefore do not choose to join with them, they will discover as much spirit in resolving in their own minds to follow their example, as if they were conjoined in that association; providing they are at the trouble, at the same time, to satisfy themselves that it is really the manufacture of their own country, which they either purchase, or cause to be purchased for them.

The great, and, indeed, the only purpose, that any premium can answer, which the Board of Trustees are enabled to offer, is to inspire an emulation among the various manufacturers, to excel each other, as far as possible, in their different

ferent branches, as to the fineness and quality of their goods; and, at the same time, to afford them some reasonable hope, that, if they are successful, the premium will indemnify them, even though the article for which it was granted should not find a ready market. When manufacturers are once brought to this way of thinking, and to esteem honour before an immediate trifling profit upon the article under competition, there is no great danger that ever this laudable spirit should subside. We are all apt to think as highly of ourselves as our merit gives us any pretensions to do, and if a candidate should be unsuccessful for this year, he will not, for that reason, give up the contest the next, conscious to himself that he is possessed of equal abilities, and enjoys every means of manufacturing goods of a quality no way inferior to those of the successful candidate. The creating and keeping alive such a spirit, I say, should be the principal view in granting premiums, and if proper attention was paid to them, the advantages which would thence arise could not fail of being productive of very salutary effects; for, when a person has attempted an improvement in any thing, it is not to be supposed he will drop it till he thinks he has brought it to perfection, nor will he be deterred from it, even though he should have the misfortune to be unsuccessful at first. Certain I am, that no country in the world is better situated for carrying on the Woollen Manufacture to advantage, nor are we deficient in any one article requisite for that purpose, but, on the contrary, enjoy many in a much superior degree to our neighbours. Let us then rouse from our present lethargy, and give encouragement to our Broad Cloth Manufacturers, many of whom have already brought it to that state of perfection which no Scotoman need be ashamed to wear; and, if they find a ready sale for it, which entirely depends upon ourselves, there is no doubt, that, as they are possessed of the means, so neither are they deficient in abilities to manufacture as fine cloth as any in Europe.

Besides the consumpt of our own country, this article would find a ready sale at foreign markets. I now set forth what I have learned from experience in my first trade; I wish it had always been carried on in that manner. I required no money. The honest Woollen merchant trusted me some pieces of Scots Woollen cloth, from 4s. to 10s. per yard, and some dozen pairs of Stockings from 20d. to 4s. per pair. These goods I bartered at Hamburgh for goods that found ready sale and good profit here, the stockings particularly; for those that cost me 20d. per pair, I got one yard of linen, valued there at 30 stivers. This I sold in Edinburgh

Edinburgh at 2 s. per yard, and a great pennyworth it was. All my hose went off in that proportion for several voyages, till I gave up going to sea, and could not get a proper person to attend it. I wish I had never dealt in any other branch, and continued going over to Hamburgh myself; in which case it is hard to say what profit might have been made. I have shirts by me, that have been in common use of my wearing these twenty-six years past, which cost me a pair of stockings per yard, value 22 d. at Leith; and which any man of business might wear. They are now worn as thin as a cobweb. I have Scots linen, that I bought only seven years ago, which cost me 5 s. 3 d. per yard, that is now all to pieces, though no oftener worn than in the ordinary course with my old Hamburgers.

I thought it necessary to mention this circumstance, in order to shew how very ridiculous it is to attempt to rival other countries in what is their natural manufacture, and the more especially as we can be supplied with that very article from them, without taking any money out of the country, but by bartering the commodities of our own, which is our natural production, and which gives much better and more lucrative employment to our labouring people, at the same time that they can engage in it from a state of infancy, to the very last stage of old age.

Leaving, now, the Broad Cloth Manufactory, to which I most sincerely wish every degree of success, and that encouragement from the public, which I flatter myself they will think a branch of such vast national importance highly merits, I shall offer a few observations on the Stocking Manufactory.

This branch has long been carried on with a pretty tolerable degree of success in different counties of Scotland; but, from a partiality against the manufactures of our own country, and in favours of those of foreigners, which I will venture to say, is a vice peculiar to the British nation alone, we do not even supply our lives with that article, which, were we to follow the example of the Dutch, French, and other nations, who wisely prefer their own commodities to those of every other country, we might not only manufacture every pair of Stockings necessary for our own consumption, but export great quantities abroad.

Scotland is unquestionably possessed of materials, by which the manufacturer can furnish stockings from 6 d. to 10 s. 6 d. may even to 40 s. per pair; and I can say, from my own experience, that I have purchased stockings made here, better and cheaper by 10 per cent. than ever I could purchase



chase English stockings in any shop in Edinburgh ; yet, to our shame be it said, I have known some shop-keepers in this city remit, or pay those people called *English Riders*, but more properly *The Drainers of our Specie*, from 3 to 4000 l. sterling annually. But, that this should continue to be the case is surely an absurdity of the first magnitude, while we happily possess many advantages over our industrious neighbours ; the price of spinning, and all sorts of labour, being much cheaper ; and firing, that most essential article, we have at more moderate rates than the English, almost every part of this country being plentifully supplied with excellent coal or turf, at very low prices.

There is no great difficulty in assigning a reason why, a number of years ago, we should consume a quantity of English manufactured stockings. They were the first who practised the method of weaving them in looms, and consequently could afford to sell them cheaper than those which were knitted with the hand. But now that we have manufactories of the same kind set up in many different parts of Scotland, by people well skilled in that branch, who can furnish the public with goods of the same quality, and at lower prices, we shall certainly be highly inexcusable if we prefer the manufacture of England, or any other country, to that of our own ; and, if we want knitted stockings, I dare venture to affirm, that this country stands unrivalled in this article, both as to their quality and fineness.

After supplying the consumption of our own country, I am likewise sensible, that the manufacturer may have a ready sale for any quantity he can possibly work up, at foreign markets.

In the seven provinces of Holland they will sell to good account. Campvere is a free port for the encouragement of this valuable staple of Scotland. They will also find a ready market at Bremen, Hamburgh, Lubeck, and Dantzick, all of which are also free ports, and supply the greatest part of Europe with these goods.

The sensible honest Zetlanders have long made great quantities of coarse stockings for the Hamburgh market, and get good returns for them ; and I have had stockings from the wool of that country so fine as to be worth 10s. 6d. per pair. No silk was finer ; and they lasted longer with me than any four pairs of silk or worsted stockings I ever wore. Indeed, I have been told by a gentleman from England, who has been regularly bred in this branch, that the wool of this country is as fit for making stockings, both coarse  
and

and fine, as any wool he ever wrought in England, or got from any other place.

The Stocking Manufactory has indeed an advantage over the Broad Cloth; and that is, that it can be carried on without so great a flock; the want of which, to the ingenious mechanic and manufacturer, is a great drawback upon the improvements of this country. Happily, however, this difficulty is now beginning to be removed, in a great measure, by the public spirited conduct of several noblemen and gentlemen of property, who, with a disinterestedness worthy of their exalted characters, have established manufactures of various kinds, in different parts of the country, not so much with the view of reaping any advantage to themselves, as giving bread to the hungry, employing the young as well as the aged, and thus rendering the one useful members of society, whom, without being timeously inured to labour and industry, might have proved the very bane of it; while the other, by being supplied with such work as they are capable of performing, instead of becoming burdens upon the public, are enabled to maintain themselves more comfortably and decently, than they possibly can be in any Charity Work-house.

Such actions as these reflect higher honour upon the performers of them, than if they were to bestow the half of their estates upon the poor. The one is doing good to his country, and to the individual at the same time; while the other might be the mere effects of a milkiness of disposition, not able to resist the sight of an object in distress, and therefore is ready enough, perhaps, to afford him some present relief. This will no doubt be thought charity, and I should be sorry to give it another name, or that the bowels of compassion of my fellow countrymen should be shut against the poor. But sure I am, he who affords employment, and consequently prevents poverty, is possessed of a more exalted notion of charity, and distributes it more effectually, than he, who regardless of this, and unwilling to put himself to any trouble, affords the beggar who comes to his door, a small pittance to prevent him from starving.

Amongst the number of noblemen and gentlemen, who might be taken notice of, as possessing this disinterested and best of all charities, which I have been endeavouring to recommend, I shall only mention two at present. The one is his Grace the Duke of Argyle; the other Lord Gardenston.

The former, in conjunction with some gentlemen of the county of Argyle, has established, at Inverary, a manufactory

facture of Yarn for coarse Woollen Cloth and Blankets. It has been found fully to answer the laudable purposes for which it was intended, and is now in a most prosperous situation. In this manufactory, sixty or seventy children, belonging to the poor people in the neighbourhood, have constant employment at spinning and carding. Two of these children are allotted to each wheel; the one spinning, and the other carding alternately, as constant employment, either at the one or the other, would be wearisome, and create a dislike, in such young minds, to the work altogether; but by their changing hands, which they do frequently, they begin with fresh vigour and spirits, and look upon their work as a kind of amusement. These poor children, many of whom are under eight years of age, instead of being a burden upon their parents, or having an opportunity of learning those vices which are so destructive to society, and in the end bring ruin upon themselves, and disgrace on all their connections, are thus inured to a habit of honest industry, and generally carry home about two shillings each of clear gains weekly to their parents. It would be needless here to expatiate on the many advantages which must unavoidably result from so wise and so humane an institution. These will naturally occur to every feeling heart, and, I hope, will be a sufficient inducement to others, who have it in their power, to imitate an example so truly public-spirited, and withal so highly charitable.

The other instance of public-spirit, which I am now to mention, is that practised by Lord Gardenston. His Lordship has lately erected a village, situated in a fine country, called the *How of the Mearns*. Here, under the patronage of so worthy a man, every branch of manufacture, and all kinds of industry, are carried on to a surprising degree. In order to induce manufacturers to settle upon this spot, every possible encouragement is granted. He not only supplies them with ground for houses and gardens, at 3d. per fall, but also allows every well recommended settler in the village, his house and garden rent free, for the first seven years, and gives premiums to encourage different branches of industry.

The improvements made at this place, in planting and hedging, are very extensive, and thriving better than any I ever saw in this, or any other country I have had an opportunity of visiting.

But, there is one manufactory newly established at this favourite village, of which I cannot omit taking particular notice; it is the manufacturing of stockings on frames or looms.

looms. By this loom, stockings, of worsted, thread and cotton, are wrought in a most expeditious manner, and can be afforded good at very moderate prices. At the same time, Mr Harley, the person engaged to superintend this undertaking, employs a number of persons in knitting stockings; by which means customers can be supplied with whatever kind they chuse. The industrious people, to which this manufactory give bread, are very numerous; and the expedition, with which they spin both wool and flax, is truly amazing. Here they all spin with both hands, with great ease, and have two pirns upon each wheel. I have seen many girls, not above twelve years of age, spin, in this manner, two slips a-day.

The improvements made at this place have undoubtedly cost the proprietor a great outlay of money; but, besides the inward satisfaction which he must enjoy in his own mind, by being the means of relieving the distressed of so many of his fellow-creatures, there is every reason to expect, that he will, in the end, get suitable returns.

As an instance how far a good example influences the conduct of others, I am happy here to mention, to the honour of the gentlemen of the Farmers Club of the Mearns, that they some time ago, in order to encourage the above Stocking-Manufactory, ordered Mr Harley to make a very pretty uniform of his stocking cloth, with the word *Plow* stamped on the buttons, and in which dress they always appear at their public meetings; nor is there any doubt, that if similar manufactures were set up in different counties, but that equal encouragement would be given.

To the honour of the same worthy gentleman, I cannot omit taking notice of a very recent instance of his public spirit. He has lately engaged and sent North, a native of England, who is acknowledged to be inferior to none of his countrymen, in the profession of Wool-combing. This person is not only to superintend that branch at Lawrence Kirk, but is also taken bound to instruct, in the same business, such young people as his Lordship shall pitch upon. He has also engaged a person eminent in the cloth printing way. This gentleman, though a native of Scotland, has long resided in England, by which he has learned not only to be capital in the cutting of any pattern which may be wanted, but likewise understands, with a minuteness little known in this country, every article in the printing branch. He not only can print cloths at the lowest value which is worn in this country, but is equally successful in producing what may suit the first lady in the kingdom. If they want Indian chintz, from him  
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they may have an imitation, which the best judges will be at a loss to distinguish from an original; and, I have so high an opinion of my fair country-women, that, when they discover this to be the case, which I am certain they will, upon a fair and candid comparison, they will not have the smallest difficulty in giving encouragement to the efforts of their own countrymen, in preference to the productions of the east, or any other country under the sun.

Any eulogium, upon the patron and promoter of these patriotic and praise-worthy undertakings, were I capable of doing justice to his merit, which I confess I am not, might be thought flattery. I shall therefore only add, that while I sincerely wish his laudable endeavours, to promote the interests of his country, may be crowned with success, I am certain after ages will hold in the highest degree of reverence and estimation, the remembrance of that man, whose chief study, during life, was principally directed to the good of his country, and to giving employment to such, who, without his friendly assistance might have been reduced to beggary and want.

The only other article with which I shall trouble the reader under this Section, which has unavoidably been drawn out to a greater length than I at first intended, shall be that of Hat-making.

This manufactory is not of an old standing in Scotland, but perhaps has been brought to greater perfection than any other which has hitherto been attempted; and, in the coarser kinds of it, a considerable quantity of wool is made use of. Having some time ago been in company with some of the most eminent hat-makers in Scotland, the conversation naturally turned upon the preservation of the wool most adapted for their business, when it was the unanimous opinion of all present, that the store-farmers, and all raisers of lambs ought to clip their wool off in the month of June or July; that the advantage the breeders of sheep would reap from such a practice, could not fail of being very considerable, as they would always find ready sale for that wool; that it would also be attended with this farther advantage, of making the fleece grow close, and preventing it from shading. This practice, it was agreed, would also hinder the wet from penetrating into the skin, and keep the lambs from throwing their fleece, which they frequently do at the time above mentioned, when nature should be assisted. As this business is in a very thriving situation, I think the store-farmers, and the raisers of lambs, should take the hint. I am fully persuaded it would bring a great deal of money into their pockets, and be of essential service to the country

in general. From this, and other materials which are produced in our own country, the hat makers here are enabled to make hats from 1 s. to 12 s. 6 d. *per* hat.

All other materials the hat-makers of this country can be supplied with upon as easy terms as those of any other nation. I am well informed, by some substantial, and long experienced makers of hats, that the pile of fur, on our hare and rabbit skins, is even superior to that produced in most places in Britain. Indeed, our northern situation must make it so; and as to the making of felt, or wool hats, either for home consumption or exportation, they can be made in this country, and particularly about this place and Glasgow, of equal quality, and on as good terms as any where in Great Britain, or even in Europe. If finer hats are required, we can have no difficulty in procuring foreign materials; I mean the fur of the beaver, from which our own manufacturers can make hats from 12 s. 6 d. to the finest any country can produce. These materials we can likewise have upon the lowest terms, and of the best quality, they being often imported into this country as a branch of trade. But were we even to commission them from London, we can have them brought to the port of Leith upon as small expence as they can be carried to any manufacturing town in England.

I must beg leave further to observe, that as there are no persons in this part of the island, employed in the making of hats, but such as have served a regular apprenticeship of seven years to the business, so they cannot but be complete workmen. The consumpt of hats, for the inhabitants of North Britain alone, may amount to 65,000 pounds sterling annually: and a quantity much exceeding this in value, might be made for exportation, if ready sale could be found. Besides the great quantity of materials, already taken notice of, we have likewise hands to carry on this branch to an amazing extent; and, the advantage accruing to the nation, from such an acquisition of trade, would be flattering, in the highest degree, to every lover of his country. Not only would it afford employment to our men brought up to the business, but even women, boys and girls, might lend their aid, in carding, cleansing, and picking the materials, as well as in lining and cocking the hats. The hands, thus employed, may earn good wages; the masters, too, might afford to supply them every Saturday night, with as much ready money as would enable them to pay the baker, butcher, and brewer, weekly. Thus might these working people live in the same manner as their brethren in England do, and make a circulation in every business in this country.

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This branch, indeed, stands in need of no other encouragement to make it prosper, but that our countrymen should throw off the unnatural partiality they have imbibed in favour of every thing which is foreign; make a fair comparison between hats manufactured here, and those which are brought from England; and candidly give the preference to that which appears best. Were this method to be followed, I have not a doubt that the Scots hat would be found greatly the best at the price. I have already observed, that our hares and rabbit skins are superior to the English. Every other article made use of in the manufacture can be had upon as easy terms, many much below, particularly servants wages and firing, which is greatly needed in this business; and I dare venture to affirm, that there are not hat-makers more knowing in their business, or that employ better hands, than those in this town and neighbourhood, in any part of Great Britain. Add to this, that they are gentlemen who deal honourably, and will serve a person who is entirely ignorant of choosing a good hat, upon the same terms with one who is ever so well skilled. The retail business, I am certain, they would not have taken up, had our merchants and haberdashers done them justice in that respect; but when that was not the case, I must applaud their spirit, in refusing to become mere drudges to these gentry, most of whom, I will be pardoned to say, have a little knowledge of the goodness of a hat, as the person who comes to purchase it. To prevent, therefore, their being entirely trampled upon by these pretenders to knowledge in the business which they have made their only study, several of them have opened retail shops for themselves. To inform my countrymen, that they can be served upon better terms by the manufacturer himself, than by a person who perhaps commissions the goods from a second or third hand, would be offering a poor compliment to their understandings. I rather chuse to rest the force of my argument, upon the benefit which must result to the country, by encouraging its manufactures, than upon any trifling gain which would undoubtedly center in the purchasers pockets, by applying to the real manufacturer, instead of a haberdasher, who brings large quantities of goods from foreign countries, with which he could be equally well supplied at home. A conduct such as this surely deserves the severest animadversion, and I hope the public will bestow it, by deserting those shops which are entirely calculated to drain the country of the specie, and resorting to such where they are certain it will be employed in giving bread to all around them.

This Section has indeed drawn out to a length which I  
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little expected. There is, however, one article, which I think of the highest consequence to every branch of the Woollen Manufacture, and which I therefore cannot omit taking notice of. It is with regard to the Cards employed in that business. It has for some time been the subject of complaint, that most of these instruments made use of in Scotland, have been such as were judged past service by the English, much to the prejudice of the manufacture of Scotland. Every one who knows any thing of this matter must be sensible, that when the teeth of the cards are broke or destroyed, it is impossible to make the *rowings*, as they are called, evenly; the thread suffers in the same manner; and, when it comes to the cloth, instead of having it quite smooth, as it ought to be, innumerable knots are the consequence.

Our wise neighbours the English foresaw the bad effects with which such a practice must unavoidably be attended; and, for that reason an act of parliament was past in the reign of Charles II. prohibiting the importation of foreign wool cards, in the following words: "WHEREAS, by the acts of parliament made in the third year of King Edward IV. and the thirty-ninth of Queen Elizabeth, and several other statutes before that time made, it is enacted (among other things therein contained) That no cards for wool, nor iron thread, (commonly called *white wire*) shall be imported, sent, or conveyed into this realm of England, wherein the best iron thread, or wire for making wool cards is made, and by the said manufacture of making and drawing of wire, and wool cards, very many poor people of this kingdom, and their families, have been employed and maintained, and the wool cards made thereof are of great concernment to this kingdom, for the good making of woollen cloth: AND WHEREAS, contrary to the said statutes, not only much foreign card wire, but also foreign wool cards, have been in these late times imported into this kingdom, and also within the same, many old wool cards are, by ill disposed persons, (for their private lucre) bought up, and the old iron wire, of the said old wool cards, being very weak, and insufficient for the well carding of wool, is put into new leather and new boards, and so altered and sold to ignorant people, for new wool cards, to their great detriment, and the indamaging of their work, carding of wool, and the cloth made thereof; By all which very great inconveniencies have been found, by experience of clothiers, in their making of English cloth, which is lately much debased and decayed, and wherein this nation is greatly concerned, to uphold and encourage the well making thereof, in and by all ways and means, in any ways conducive thereunto: Be it therefore enacted, by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the



the advice and consent of the lords Spiritual and Temporal and the Commons, assembled in parliament; and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no foreign wool cards, or foreign card wire, or iron wire for making of wool cards, be imported into this kingdom of England, dominion of Wales, or any part thereof, nor used within the same, nor any card wire, taken out of old cards, be from henceforth put into new leather, and new card boards, nor any such wool cards, made thereof, be put to sale, upon the pains penalties and forfeitures hereafter following; that is to say, every person or persons, who shall import, or bring any foreign wool cards, or foreign card wire, or iron wire, for making of wool cards, into the kingdom of England, dominion of Wales, or any parts thereof, or make any wool cards of any such old card wire, as aforesaid, or put the same to sale, shall forfeit the said wool cards, and card wire, or iron wire, for making wool cards, or the value thereof, if the same be not seized, the one half part thereof to the King's Majesty, and the other half part thereof to such person or persons, who shall first seize, or sue for the same, by action of debt, plaint, bill, information, or indictment, in any of his Majesty's courts of record at Westminster, or within the county, city, burgh, or town corporate, where such offence shall be committed, wherein no escheign, protection, wager of law, or injunction, shall be allowed or admitted.

“ Provided always, that this act shall not extend to hinder the owners of any wool cards to cause them to be amended, for their own use, or to transport or sell (for transportation only) all their old worn wool cards, in parts beyond the seas, out of his Majesty's dominions.”

Though it might have been expected, that this act would have extended so far, as to prevent the importation of these second handed cards into Scotland, and though the act itself might very naturally bear such a construction, yet as no man, or particular body of men, are by it directed to put the same into execution, the constant practice has been, of importing several thousand dozens of second hand pairs of cards into Scotland annually, to the very great detriment of the Woollen Manufacture, the raw material having been thereby injured, by estimation, at least six per cent.

So sensible were the principal Wollen Manufacturers of this country, of the great loss the continuance of such a practice must be, not only to themselves, but to the fabric in which they were employed, that several of them applied to the Board of Trustees, by a memorial, so far back as November 1773, stating the fact, and craving that Honourable Board would recommend it to the Royal Burghs, and their Com-  
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missioners, to apply to the legislature to have the prohibition extended to Scotland.

The above application was at this time made, because these memorialists had been informed, that a law was expected to pass, the then next session of Parliament, making sundry regulations, with respect to the manufactures of this country, and that these regulations were principally to be pointed out, by Commissioners employed by the Royal Burghs of Scotland.

No notice has hitherto been taken of this memorial; for what reason I have not been able to learn. Certain, however, it is, that so great an evil requires a speedy and an effectual remedy, as the very existence of our Woollen Manufacture in a great measure depends upon it. It would likewise employ a number of hands to make so great a quantity of cards, as is requisite for the consumption of this country, and at the same time add considerably to his Majesty's revenue of excise, because the quantity of leather necessary for that purpose would be at least 2000 lib. weight, and this leather pays a duty of three half pence *per* pound.

I have already endeavoured to apologise for the length of this section. I hope the importance of the subject will be thought the best I can offer. That it may be viewed in the same light by the rest of my fellow countrymen; and that proper encouragement may be given to the several branches I have taken notice of, is my utmost wish. Many other articles, in the woollen way, fell properly to be mentioned under this section; but these, as they are of a more trifling nature, for the sake of brevity, I have not insisted upon. Indeed, if the principal branches are duly attended to, the inferior ones will follow of course.

## SECTION

## SECTION III.

*Of the FISHERIES. This being an article of trade, in the prosecution of which we require no foreign aid, and may acquire many and great advantages, should therefore be pursued with unremitting perseverance and activity.*

IT is an observation founded on the experience of ages, that the less expence and outlay of money, which is employed in any branch of trade, so much the greater reason has the adventurer in that trade to hope for success.

This observation, I humbly conceive, could never be applied with more propriety than in the present instance.

In many branches of this trade, the prosecutors of it are relieved from several articles of charge, which unavoidably fall upon those employed in almost every other occupation.

I shall only instance a few. The farmer, after purchasing all the utensils made use of in husbandry, as well as the grain which he puts into the ground, must likewise, besides maintaining his labourers, pay very largely to the proprietor of that ground, for the liberty of tilling it.—The manufacturer; the merchant; in short every person whatever, who carries on any business, as well as those who do not, whether they reside in town or country, have innumerable articles to pay for, of which those who plow the watery ocean, in search of fish, that great source of riches to every country, whose situation affords an opportunity of catching them, are entirely relieved. After they have once furnished out their Busses or Vessels, they have little other expence to look for; and even in this, they are wisely assisted by government in various instances. They are loaded with no shop rents; no public burdens to the King or Royal Burghs; nor do they pay any thing for tilling that element, from which they expect to reap their harvest. These, surely, are encouragements which ought not to be slighted: But, though none such had any existence, I may venture to affirm, that this trade, if properly managed, would turn out a lucrative one to the adventurer, and a certain fund of wealth to the nation in general.

There are different kinds of fisheries which may be carried

ried on with great advantage. These I shall speak to in the following order :

*First*, The Salmon-fishing, carried on in rivers, and in a certain part of the sea, into which these rivers empty themselves.

*Secondly*, The Whale-fishing, carried on in Greenland.

*Thirdly*, The Cod and Ling-fishing, which may be carried on in many places to advantage, and particularly on the coasts opposite to the West Highlands ; as well as in various salt-water lochs, several of which run far up the country. And,

*Fourthly*, The Herring ; or, as it is commonly called, *The White Herring Fishery*.

It will not be necessary to bestow many words upon the *first* of these articles. All the Salmon fishings in Scotland, originally, and of right, belonged to the Sovereign ; but were granted, upon different occasions, to the Royal Burghs, next adjacent to these rivers, or to the Noblemen and Gentlemen, whose estates lay upon their banks. Several burghs still retain the property of them ; others, not thinking them of great consequence, as indeed they were not some centuries ago, granted the rights they had acquired from the Sovereign, either to some leading man in the burgh, or to some nobleman or gentleman in the neighbourhood, sometimes for a trifling consideration, and at others on account of some real or imaginary service done the community.

The importance, however, of these fishings, which formerly were thought of so little consequence, now afford an article of commerce highly beneficial to this country. We owe our improvements in many branches to our intercourse with the English ; but in nothing more than in this article. Salmon-fishings, which formerly were of little or no estimation, by English adventurers taking tacks of them, now give employment and bread to many industrious people, and bring a great deal of money into the country, at the same time that they enrich the proprietors. I believe, I may venture to say, that, next to the article of our Black Cattle, Salmon brings more ready cash into the country, than any other in which we deal. It has this further advantage, that every expence which is produced by such commerce, is earned almost entirely at the expence of bodily labour ; nor is there the same danger in over-fishing a river, which there is in over-labouring a field of corn-ground. The one may be scourged in such a manner as to be rendered useless for years to come. The other, if proper attention is paid to the preservation of the spawn, which every skilful person will take care shall be the case, is plentifully supplied by the luxuriance

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of that ocean, which is Britain's greatest boast, and the source of all its riches, and of all its glory.

Such being the situation of most of the Salmon fishings in Scotland, it would be needless in me to dwell longer upon them. I am persuaded they are at present under as proper management as the nature of the thing will admit of; and I hope, for the sake of this country, they will long continue to be so.

The next article I proposed to speak to, under this Section, was that of the *Greenland Fishery*.

This branch of trade has undoubtedly brought a great deal of money into the country, or which is the same thing saved much from going out of it. I was among the first who promoted it in this country; was one of the first named as a manager of the Edinburgh Whale-fishing Company; among the first who subscribed to the stock; and has more of the stock in my name, at this day, than any one partner of that Company. With a few other merchants in Edinburgh, I fitted out two other ships for the Greenland trade, viz. the Prince and Princess of Wales, and continued the trade several years; and after this I bought two ships of the Edinburgh Whale-fishing Company, on my own proper account, in which some gentlemen joined me, and took one half concern; but I held the other half of both ships, and all the materials and stores, which, I believe, was risking more in the trade, than has been done by any man in Scotland; and I continued this till one of the ships, the Edinburgh, was lost in the ice; after which I still continued the ship Leith for eleven years more, though with very bad success.

I have been the more particular on this article, as an anonymous writer, under the signature of *Scotie Amicus*, has taken it upon him to advance, that I was soon tired of one branch of business. The above, I think, is a sufficient confutation of that allegation; and, had this anonymous gentleman been at the trouble of examining the Custom-house books in Leith, before he had adventured on his hearsay story, he would have there seen, that I likewise pursued another branch of trade, with steadiness, for twenty years together, viz. the Hamburg trade.

The length of time, in which I was engaged in the Whale-fishing business, afforded me many opportunities to be thoroughly acquainted with the nature of it, and from thence I can venture to say, that, if it is properly managed, it may turn out a still more lucrative branch of trade than it has hitherto done.

The government continues to give a very handsome premium to those who chuse to fit out ships for this fishery: and

the conditions upon which this premium is to be obtained, are so wisely framed, that the ship would be unfit for the voyage, were any one of them to be omitted ; nay, should the premium be discontinued, which probably will be the case some years hence, those who fit out ships for the Greenland fishery, will find it necessary to furnish them with every article the government has specified they shall have to be entitled to the premium.

Some Companies in Scotland, particularly the Dunbar Whale-fishing Company, have made very handsome profits by this trade. The Edinburgh Whale-fishing Company might likewise have made considerably more than they have done, had they not fully insured every ship. This practice took away a great deal of profits, which otherwise would have fallen to have been divided among the adventurers. Though I am far from being an enemy to Insurance, but on the contrary, think it a wise and a very salutary measure, yet where the Adventurers are so numerous as in the Edinburgh Whale-fishing Company, and the shares so small, I cannot help thinking, that Insurance, in that particular, was very unnecessary ; for, supposing the worst that could have happened, that some of their ships had been lost, that loss was to fall upon so many, and in such small sums, that they would not have felt it. The Dunbar Whale-fishing Company insure none of their ships ; and it is owing, in a great measure, to this, that they have been enabled to divide so much more profits than the other. At the same time that I am of this opinion with regard to large Companies, I am equally clear, that where only one, or even a small Company, are engaged in an adventure of that nature, they should never allow their ships to go to sea without being insured, because the loss, if any were to happen, as it behoved to be borne by a few, would consequently fall very heavy upon them ; and the premium for Insurance, in such cases, should be considered by them as an object of no consequence, when, perhaps, their whole fortunes were in the balance.

The Ling, Cod, and Tusk-fishing, might also be rendered a very important branch of trade to this country. It may be carried on with great success on the coasts of Orkney and Zetland, as well as on those of the West Highlands, and in the various salt-water lochs, with which that country abounds.

I must, however, take notice of one very necessary precaution to be observed in this, as well as the Herring-fishing, and that is, with regard to the killing and salting them in proper time, after they are caught. Every one knows, that the blood of all living creatures, after they are deprived of breath

suddenly congeals: and, if not taken off, by some means or other, corrupts and renders useless the whole body. In creatures of fat or oily substances, such as the herring, this, in a peculiar manner, must be the case. To prevent, therefore, so great a misfortune, I would recommend it to those employed in our fisheries, immediately when they get the fish upon deck, to cut their throats with a small knife. They will then bleed freely, which cannot happen, if they are allowed to die by any other means. After this the gills and guts are to be taken out, and the fish instantly salted. This simple process will render the fish wholesome, and quite white and transparent. It will have this further advantage; a great deal less salt will be necessary; whereas, if they are allowed to lie a few hours dead, without being bled, as above-mentioned, more salt will be needed; the fish will not be so good; and the herring, in particular, owing to its richness, by that time, will be advanced in such a state of corruption, that all the salt on board will not be sufficient to cure them.

The Dutch, who are allowed, on all hands, to be excellent fishermen, observe this method; and I would beg leave, in a particular manner, to recommend the practice of it to my countrymen, as I am convinced they would soon see the salutary effects of it, by getting the preference at the market, to those, who, through indolence or inattention, neglected to cure their fish after this manner.

So nice, indeed, are the Dutch in this respect, that those of superior rank will not touch a fish which comes dead to market. This makes them famous for having the finest of fish at their tables. Their fishermen have well-boats on purpose to keep them alive, and I have seen six flivers, equal to our sixpence halfpenny, given for a haddock alive, when six of the same sort of fish, which had been brought dead to market, might have been purchased for that money.

In further corroboration of the propriety of this manner of curing fish, I cannot here omit taking notice of two cargoes of Ling and Cod, which were brought to Leith this year. The one belonged to Mr James Chalmers merchant in Leith, and the other to Captain William Ferguson, of Peterhead. These cargoes were caught in the West Highlands, and most part of them in Loch Gairloch. Both were cured in the manner I have been recommending; both found ready sale and were indeed excellent fish, being so white and clean that one might have seen through them by holding them betwixt one and the light. The fish of the first mentioned cargo, however, was pleasanter to the taste than the last, though both were equally clean and well cured. This difference I can attribute solely to the former's being cured with great or foreign salt, while

the proprietor of the other cargo made use of nothing but native or small salt.

The laws with regard to the duties on foreign salt, to be used in our fisheries, are in many respects confused and perplexed, and the officers, whose province it is to collect or inspect the salt revenue, often stretch points, which are not very clear, too far; by which means, many who would make use of foreign salt, which is undoubtedly much superior for the purposes above mentioned, to that of our own country produce, are afraid to do so, on account of the heavy duty.

The legislature, who, much to the honour of those who are at the helm of affairs, gives every encouragement to the Newfoundland and all other branches of fishing, I am persuaded, do not tie up the hands of those officers or inspectors in such a manner, as that they might not take the same duties for a certain quantity of white fish cured with that salt, for home consumption, which they do for herrings. The duty paid for the salt used in curing one barrel of herrings, is a shilling. I would therefore propose, that the like sum, and no more, should be paid for as much foreign salt as would be sufficient to cure, for home consumption, 300 lib. weight of ling, cod, tusk, or any other salt-water fish.

Indeed, the Dutch are so fully convinced of the utility of having a plentiful supply of salt, properly adapted for their fisheries, that they impose no duty whatever on foreign salt, and I am apt to think it would shew the wisdom of our legislature, were they to follow their example. The foreign salt, thus imported into their country, free of all duties, they boil up, which renders it stronger and fairer. This they call *salt upon salt*. Less of it cures the fish, while, at the same time, it likewise keeps them pure and white, even to the very bone.

No nation, I dare venture to say, understands trade better than the Dutch; and, for that very reason, there is no nation which lays fewer restraints upon it. The fisheries they consider as a capital branch, and therefore clog it with no incumbrances. I am fully convinced it might be rendered equally capital to Great Britain, and can see no good reason why we should not shew the same regard to its interests.

But, it is now time to say something on the Herring fishery, which was the last article I proposed to treat of under this Section.

This fishing, the Dutch honours with the name of the *great Fishing*. The Whale-fishing, as being only a secondary branch to it, they term the *claine*, or *small fishing*. Our Western Highlands are most excellently situated for carrying on this great trade, as well as the Ling, Cod, and Tusk fishings.

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Nature has supplied them with so many fine inlets from the sea, called *lechs*, and such excellent harbours in these lochs, that no person could figure their safety and conveniency, without being on the spot, and viewing them.

For the encouragement of this great branch, government has bestowed several premiums; nor can it be said that they are distributed with a niggard hand. I must, however, be forgiven to observe, that the legislature, when they granted these premiums, do not seem to have been so well informed, (I am certain they are not so judiciously applied) as when they granted the premiums to the Whale-fishery. In this branch, no article of tackling, stores, &c. is imposed upon the adventurer, but what he necessarily behoved to take along with him, even had he not been tied down by the law, if he wished to be successful. In the herring-fishing. I am sorry to say, this is far from being the case. The adventurers in this branch are obliged to furnish their vessels or busses with many articles, which are so far from being necessary, that they are even inconvenient, and answer no other purpose than putting the adventurers to an additional outlay of money. Among several of these articles which might be taken notice of, I shall only mention one, which consists with my own knowledge, and of which I have heard many complaints from different persons, who gave up the trade on that account. The article I mean, is the great quantity of nets they are ordered to carry out, each vessel or buss being obliged to have 250 square yards of nets on board, for every ton they measure, which, I am persuaded, is at least the double of what is necessary, the one half being generally rotten and spoiled, as it is impossible to use them, or get them properly dried, if they could be made use of.

This, however, I only mention as an objection, amongst many others, which might be offered, to the law as it presently stands. My great objection is to the law itself, and I shall submit it to the public with that deference which becomes an individual, when treating of matters of public concern, and, at the same time, with that freedom which is the undoubted privilege of every Briton.

By the law, as it presently stands, the vessels employed in the Herring-fishing, entitled to the bounty, must be of the size of 20 tons and upwards. These vessels, before they can receive a certificate, must be furnished with the stipulated quantity of nets, casks, salt, and number of hands, which, at a medium, makes the cost and outfit of every one of these vessels, amount to no less a sum than 800*l.* sterling.

It must occur to every one, that so large a sum as this is not easily raised in the West Islands of Scotland, which puts  
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it out of the power of those who lie in the very heart of the fishing country, from availing themselves of what the public principally meant to give them, employment, and what nature had likewise so strongly pointed out, in affording them to excellent a situation for carrying on this branch of trade.

After giving employment to the inhabitants, and encouraging a new species of merchandize in this country, the government's next view, in granting these bounties, undoubtedly was, to rear up a hardy and useful body of seaman, who, in times of emergency, might be called forth to vindicate the rights of Great Britain.

I am far from denying, that the intentions of government have been fully answered in every one of these views; but, if they can be rendered still more extensive, it surely merits the mature consideration of the public. With this design, I humbly beg leave to lay before them the following plan; which, I am persuaded, were it, or any similar one adopted, might be attended with many salutary consequences.

Government allows a bounty of 30s. per ton, on all vessels fitted out, as already mentioned, for the White Herring-fishery. This bounty is paid on the arrival of the vessels, or a very short time thereafter, whether they are successful or not, providing it appears, to the satisfaction of the proper officers, that the masters and crews have done their duty; and there is no manner of doubt, it has been of much advantage to the country; a great number of vessels, or busses, having been fitted out in consequence thereof; who have met with a degree of success last year, hitherto unknown, but which may reasonably be expected to increase, if followed out with perseverance.

I shall suppose, that for several years past, at a medium, 150 busses have been fitted out annually for this trade, and that about 10,000l. sterling of bounty have been paid upon them. I shall also suppose, that the quantity of Herrings caught by these busses, dividing the bounty by the number of barrels properly cured and packed for the market, may amount to 3s. 6d. per barrel, reckoning the number of barrels at about 60,000. This is paid by the bounty on the busses, and if all, or any part of these herrings are exported, the merchant receives from the public, another bounty of 2s. 8d. per barrel.

Many people may think, that government could not possibly have devised a more probable method of giving stability to the British Herring-fishery, than by affording the bounties and encouragements which I have faithfully narrated above; and I have already acknowledged, that they have been productive of many salutary effects. But experience has con-

vinced

vinced me, that these bounties, salutary and efficacious as they certainly have been, may still be put upon a better footing; which leads me to the plan I humbly presume to lay before the Public.

Instead, therefore, of giving the bounty upon the ton of shipping, which is now the case, my proposal is, that it should be bestowed upon the herrings. Were the legislature to enact, That for every barrel of herrings caught and properly cured for home consumption, a bounty of 3 s. and 6 d. per barrel should be paid, and 6 s. 2 d. for every barrel exported, without any limitations with regard to the mode of catching them, I cannot entertain a doubt, that every purpose, proposed by government from the present bounty, would be answered.

It may be objected to this plan, that the same number of seamen would not be bred, as by the present mode of giving the bounty; for that, as the vessels or busses are obliged, before they receive the bounties, to produce certificates of their having fished both seasons, that is, summer and winter, so the boys and men employed in them, are hardy and fit for any service; whereas, were the bounties to be given as I have proposed, a great deficiency in our able bodied seamen would be the consequence, as most of the fishery would then be carried in open boats, which would only be a nursery for fishermen instead of seamen.

But to this, I beg leave to answer, in the *first* place, That though a great number of hands would undoubtedly be employed in open boats, yet it does not from thence follow, that the fishing by vessels or busses would be given up. This I am far from thinking would be the case; on the contrary, I imagine their numbers would rather be encreased; for, as the adventurers would not then be subject to the hardships they at present labour under, on the outfit of their vessels, before they can be entitled to the bounty; so, when they had it in their own power, to act in that matter as they thought proper, and were to receive a bounty equivalent to the quantity of herrings caught and properly cured by them, what they saved on the furnishings of the vessels would probably be bestowed on engaging an additional number of hands; it being natural to suppose, that the more of these which were employed, the greater chance would there be of catching a larger quantity of fish, which behoved then to be their only object. But,

*2dly*, Suppose the alteration I have proposed should, instead of increasing, decrease the number of vessels employed in this branch, which I am far from thinking would be the case; yet, still the additional number of hands which my scheme

scheme must give bread to, would do much more than compensate for any deficiency that could possibly happen by such an alteration. I have already observed, that the fitting out of a vessel in such manner as to be entitled to the bounty, comes to so large a sum, that it is altogether out of the power of most people, who reside in these places best adapted for carrying on the fishing, at all to engage in it. Were my plan to be adopted, however, there is not an idle hand but what might be employed, much to their own advantage, as well as to the benefit of their country. The boats and tackling, necessary for this business, might be purchased at an easy rate, and the regard for the bounty would be a great stimulative for persons of all ranks and ages to engage in it. I may likewise venture to say, that this would prove as good a nursery for seamen as the other. Boys of almost every age may be employed in this sort of fishing; they are exposed to hardships unknown to those who sail on board decked vessels, and therefore prove the best of seamen. For my own part, I always preferred such; and, though they might be a little awkward at first, in six months time they generally proved the most necessary hands on board.

These are some of the advantages, which I think could not fail of following the proposed alteration of the bounties upon herrings. Many others might be taken notice of: I shall, however, content myself at present with only mentioning one more, which is, that by their putting all our people in motion, and having no idle hands in those places, to which the herrings resort, we might soon be enabled to drive the Dutch, and every other nation, out of the market. This, indeed, is the great object to be studied in every branch of trade or manufacture; for, if we allow foreigners either to undersell us, or to supply other countries with better goods than we can do, it is not to be expected that these countries should deal with us. If, however, all our idle hands were employed, a premium given to make them industrious, and the duties taken off the foreign salt, it is impossible this could be the case. It is well known the Dutch catch the most of the fish they export off our own coasts. Should not this lead us seriously to reflect, what a reproach it is to the good sense and understandings of the British nation, to lie idle by, and see the inhabitants of any other country, enriching themselves with what nature has in a peculiar manner bestowed upon us, if we will only be at the trouble of seeking after it? I hope this folly will soon be got the better of; and, I do think, the adopting a plan similar to the one above mentioned, is the most probable method of attaining an end of so  
much



natural consequence: the completion of which ought earnestly to be wished for, by every real friend to his country.

I took the liberty of recommending to those of my countrymen, who are, or may be employed in the Ling and Cod fishery, to follow the method practised by the Dutch in the prosecution of that business. I am so fully convinced of their skill in the herring branch, that I would beg leave to recommend them as patterns worthy of imitation in it likewise. Indeed, they have long had the reputation of curing their herrings the best of any other people. It is not, however, a very difficult matter to equal them in this, which certainly is a very essential article.

The method is simply this, They shoot their nets in the evening about sun set, and haul them in again before sunrise in the morning. So soon as they get the fish on board they cut their throats, as described under the article of Ling, &c. and salts them immediately, so that they are in a manner cured alive. This is a very easy process, but it is a process which must be exactly followed, if clean wholesome fish are expected. Having, however, spoken pretty fully to it under the preceding article, it would be unnecessarily taking up the time of the reader to dwell longer upon it.

Before I conclude this Section, I must be forgiven to say a few words, with regard to the manner in which the great Holland fisheries are carried on. In that country all ranks and orders of people are concerned in them. There is scarce a footman or servant maid in Holland, or any of the other provinces, who is not an adventurer, as shares may be purchased from twenty guilders to twenty thousand.

I would beg leave to ask, Whether the Dutch are not worthy of imitation in this respect also? and, whether Companies of this sort, established in Scotland, would not be of infinite advantage to this country?

We are at no loss to find many people here, who are apt enough, after the example of the English, to enter into companies, or clubs, for the purpose of splitting lottery tickets; and shall we be diffculted to procure adventurers in a branch of trade which promises suitable returns?—God forbid!—The former is the worst and most pernicious sort of gaming. It strikes at the very root of both honesty and industry, and will infallibly destroy both in the end, if carried on with the same unremitting ardour for a short time longer with which it has been indulged for some years past. Of late it has encreased to a most amazing height. We have lottery offices in every corner of almost every trading town in Scotland. A bad specimen, I must acknowledge, with regret, of the industry and improvements of this country.

try. How much more good sense would the inhabitants of these towns discover, in bestowing what trifle they could spare from their ordinary business, in establishing Companies in the manner of the Dutch ? They would then be pursuing a real substance ; and, if it should chance to evade their grasp, which is not very probable, their loss would not be great, while they would have the inward satisfaction of reflecting, that they had been the means of giving bread to so many industrious people, who, without such well-timed assistance, might have become an intolerable burden to themselves, as well as to the public. I am certain the adventurers in the lottery can have no such consolation. If they are losers, which is much more than probable will be the case ; to whom does that loss grant relief ? Not to the industrious ; but to a parcel of drones, who, incapable of engaging in any branch of business of real utility, betake themselves to that which requires neither head nor hands to execute ; and, while they pretend to calculate chances, are, in reality, picking the pockets of the unwary.

Let me, then, seriously recommend it to the people of this country to bestow their money where there is at least every probability of advancing the improvements of it. The English are in many respects worthy of imitation ; but let us not, for that reason, copy their vices ; a more detestable one, I confess, I do not know them guilty of, than that which I have been endeavouring to explode.

## SECTION

## SECTION IV.

*Of PORTER. That we ought to give encouragement to the Brewers of it, and other malt liquors in our own country, in preference to the London Porter Brewers.*

**W**ANT of money is almost an universal complaint in this country; and it is noways surprizing it should be so, when it is considered how very fond we are of sending it abroad, for what we could either easily want, or manufacture at home. I imagine I am not far wrong in my calculation, when I estimate the money remitted annually to England, for the two articles alone of broad cloth and London Porter, at the enormous sum of, 200,000 pounds sterling. Of the former I have already treated pretty fully. I shall now say a few words on the latter.

That the brewers of Porter in this country have arrived at the same degree of perfection with those in London; is what I will not pretend to say; nor, indeed, can it ever be the case, so long as we give encouragement to the English, and withhold it so much from the Porter Brewers of our own country.

Before this liquor is in a proper condition for drinking, it must be kept a considerable time. This requires that large quantities of it should be brewed at once; but, while we are so partial in favours of the London Porter, it is not to be expected that our brewers will risk their whole stock upon an article, which, from the insatuation of their countrymen, may be rendered a losing trade.

Several brewers, however, in this town and neighbourhood, have, of late, done a good deal in the porter branch; and though, perhaps they have not brought it to the same perfection with the London Porter, owing to the cause already noticed, yet, I am persuaded it is more wholesome, and less adulterated with small beer, than most of that liquor which is sold in our taverns and public houses for London Porter. It may not, indeed, be exactly of the same flavour; but this surely cannot be attributed to the unskillfulness

ness of our brewers, or a deficiency of materials necessary for its manufacture.

I know it has been advanced, that Porter cannot be made without Thames water; but this is a most ridiculous notion. Mr Combrune, who wrote a very sensible essay on brewing, laughs at that vulgar prejudice. Every man of sense, with whom I have conversed on the subject, does the same; and I am well informed, that, even in London, where one butt of porter is brewed of Thames water, there are ten made from the New River, and other water about that metropolis; nor is there better soft water in Britain, than that with which this city and neighbourhood is supplied.

To say that the people of this country have not genius to arrive at perfection in this branch, is equally ridiculous, and an insult on their understandings. Instances innumerable might be given to shew the futility of this argument. A few shall suffice. It is not many years since the Soapery and Glasshouses were set a-going at Leith, and up-hill work it no doubt was for some time; but, by perseverance and application, these people became as good soft soap-boilers and bottle-makers, as any in the kingdom. The prejudice against our soft soap was even greater then, than it is against the porter at present; in so much that the manufacturers were obliged, for several years, to send it up to Newcastle, in order that they might get it sold in Scotland, upon its return, for English soap. This prejudice is now entirely got the better of; and the manufacturing of these two articles, soap and bottles, save a great deal of money to the country; but I hope soon to see the woollen goods, and our home-brewed porter, save ten times more than both. The genius of our countrymen likewise appears, from the satisfaction they give their employers, in the works carried on in the Caldwon of Edinburgh in the chimney way, at Prestonpans, Carron, and several other places which might be mentioned.

The money which goes out of the country for the article of porter alone, is really shameful, and would scarce be credited, if the fact was not well known. For several years past, the quantity brought into Leith, and the other parts in the Frith of Forth, exceeds 30,000 l. sterling per annum; and I imagine Dundee, Montrose, Aberdeen, Inverness, and all the other ports of Scotland, cannot be estimated at less than 20,000 l. more. A pretty sum this, truly, to be paying for an article we can so well do without. I would be glad to know what became of our forefathers, who never tasted, nor thought of it? Good strong ale and two-penny pleased them; and they were as merry and good company  
over



ever it, as their descendants are over their porter. It is, besides, a most expensive drink; as people but of low circumstances, who indulge themselves in this piece of luxury, will toss off their two or three bottles at a few draughts; and, I am sorry to say, this extravagance has now arrived at a pitch hitherto unknown in this country. We have numberless clubs in this city, whose meetings seem to be calculated for no other purpose, than that of guzzling down so many bottles of London porter as amounts to the quota they are resolved to spend, while, perhaps, their wives and children at home, stand in need of many things which are absolutely necessary for the support and maintenance of the family.

I am far from meaning, that friendly social meetings of companions should be abolished or given up. After the toils of the day, a little indulgence of that kind is very pardonable; but I would have my countrymen, even in their convivial, as well as serious moments, to have the interests of the place of their nativity in view; and, while they do so, in the article of drinking, as well as every other which I have been endeavouring to recommend, I am persuaded they will at the same time study the interest of their families, and of their own pockets; for I have seen the bill at drinking porter run higher, than a claret bill did some years ago. I have already acknowledged, that we have not as yet arrived at such a degree of perfection in brewing it, as they have in London; but I dare venture to say, there are many porter brewers in and about this city, who make such porter as any Scotsman may be pleased with. I beg leave to mention the following, *viz.* Messrs. George Millar, St Ann's yards; James Hotchkiss, Grass-market; Archibald Campbell, Cowgate; Gardner and company, Goosedub, all in and about Edinburgh; and Messrs. Cundel and Son, and Matthew Comb, at Leith.

I likewise hinted, that the London porter consumed in our taverns and public houses was not genuine, but adulterated with small beer. To establish this fact, let any person go into a tavern or public house, in Edinburgh or Leith, and drink this dear *stuff*; for so I call it; it is not genuine porter; and they will find at least one third, if not one half of the drink in the bottle, small beer. Whether the mixture is made in London, in Leith, in Edinburgh, or perhaps partly in all the three, is noways material to the drinkers. Sure I am, they pay high to please their corrupt tastes; for, what with the smallness of the bottle, and the quantity of small beer glutted down along with it, the drinker pays at the rate of seven-pence for every English quart or Scots chopin. On the other hand, good Scots porter, without any adulteration,

ration, can be had at three-pence the bottle, and excellent strong ale at the same price; both which are better worth the money, than the adulterated trash, which is drunk by hundreds of dozens in a day, in and about this metropolis. It is nothing but prejudice in some, and self-interest in others, which has brought this destructive branch of business to so great a height.

It is truly amazing what aversion we have to every thing made in our own country. Better ale, small beer, and two-penny, I am persuaded, cannot be had in any country whatever; and why we should not be satisfied with these, and such porter as we can make among ourselves, is very unpardonable. I am afraid we deserve, in part, what Mr Glover some time ago said of us, that we had every sense but common sense; for I do think, that a Scotsman, who will not wear good cloth, because made here, and refuses to drink good porter, because brewed in or about Edinburgh, in a great measure verifies that gentleman's assertion, and may justly be said to have no regard whatever for his country.

I however hope, that this folly is wearing out in a great measure, so much London porter not having been imported this year as has been for several preceding ones. Indeed, if we seriously reflected on the consequences, a stop would be put to it altogether, by a resolution of the people of Scotland, to drink nothing but home-brewed malt liquors; for I am certain, besides the money such a resolution would keep in the country, the advantage of which must be apparent to every one, that our own brewers are capable to afford better drink, for the same money, than the English can possibly do; and that for two reasons; *first*, Because they pay just double the duty for their malt which we do for ours; and, *secondly*, Because they pay at least five times the price for their coals. These are the two principal articles consumed in the brewing business; and, when we possess such great advantages over our neighbours in these, as well as several others which might be mentioned, it surely requires little argument to convince any sensible man, that we may be supplied with better and more wholesome drink at home, than any we can import from England.

I might mention many instances to prove the truth of this assertion, from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Leith, and other places; but shall only take notice of one at present; and that is, Mr Hugh Bell of this city. That gentleman occupies a most extensive brewery, and, I think, I shall not fall under the censure of having an improper partiality for the manufactures of my own country, if I aver, that no brewer  
in

in Great Britain can possibly furnish better liquors, of the different kinds and prices, than he does. This gentleman does not confine himself to one species. He brews small beer, of a very excellent quality, indeed ; which, if properly taken care of, will keep throughout the year, and is very little inferior to what we are furnished with, in many public houses, under the appellation of *London porter*. It is a very clean wholesome drink, and private families may supply themselves with it at a trifle more than a penny the bottle. He likewise brews strong ale and beer of various kinds. I believe, indeed, he has not yet attempted the porter ; but, what strengthens my argument greatly, *viz.* That the brewers and every other manufacturer in this country, are capable to equal, if not to excel those of any other, is this, Mr Bell brews ale and beer, in imitation of such liquors brewed in the most famous towns in England, and from whence they take their names, to as great perfection as in these very towns ; nay, I believe I should not exceed the truth, if I said greater, as Mr Bell's ale and beer is generally preferred to theirs at the foreign markets.

These being facts which cannot be controverted, I should be glad to know, in what consists the grand and inexplicable mystery of brewing Porter with equal success ? I think I have accounted for it already, when I said, it was entirely owing to the brewers not getting proper encouragement, by which they were disabled from carrying it on to that extent which is necessary. I believe I might add as a consequence, or rather as the cause itself, the numerous Porter clubs in this city, who will not taste any Porter brewed by their own countrymen, though they can give no better reason for such refusal, than that it is *Scots*.

These clubs are composed, in a great measure, of merchants and mechanics. I would therefore beg leave to ask them how they would relish it, should the Noblemen and Gentlemen of property withdraw their business from them, because they were Scots merchants, Scots wrights, Scots shoemakers, and so forth, of every other profession ? What reflections would they not have, and how highly would they be offended, to be told, that none of them understood their trades so well as foreigners ?—This, however, is the treatment these very gentlemen give to the Woollen Manufacturers, and the Brewers of Scotland ; but how highly injurious, as well as unjust, they are, when applied to them, must appear evident to every one who has so much the love of his country at heart, as to make use of their commodities ; and, I humbly apprehend, no character, however exalted, need be ashamed to do so.

I cannot conclude this Section, without mentioning, to the honour of the gentlemen, merchants, &c. of Glasgow, Dundee, and several other towns, that they give all encouragement to their own Porter, and every other article manufactured among themselves; nor should I forgive myself, were I to omit taking notice of the public spirited conduct of many of my fair country-women in this metropolis, who will admit no other Porter to their tables, but such as is brewed in Scotland. In this they surely study the interests of their husbands and families, as they save at least a penny upon every bottle. They at the same time promote the interest of their country, by encouraging its manufactures. I hope so laudable and praise-worthy an example, will be followed by every mistress of a family throughout Scotland. Their husbands, surely, will never usurp their natural province of managing within doors, especially when they do it so much to the advantage of the family, as they undoubtedly will, in this respect, by following the above example. It may likewise have this further good effect; it may divest the husband of the unnatural prejudice he has taken against Scots porter. In that case, the fair sex will have the merit of establishing a valuable manufacture in their country, which I hope, for their own honour, they will take every opportunity in their power to accomplish.

## SECTION



## SECTION V.

*Of the unhappy disputes which have for some time subsisted between GREAT BRITAIN and her AMERICAN COLONIES.*

THERE has been so much written and spoken upon the subject of American affairs, that I should scarce have troubled the reader with any thing upon them in this place, had it not been to undeceive the Public, who have been grossly imposed upon by those who are fond of the name of *Patriots* in our neighbouring kingdom, with regard to the many advantages Great Britain enjoyed from her trade with America.

I think it will be no very difficult matter to show, that these wonderful advantages, which our patriots would have us believe resulted from the American trade, has centered chiefly among themselves, and that they are obliged to Great Britain entirely, for trade and every other blessing they enjoy.

As facts will more effectually make this appear, than all the oratory and sophistry of a Chatham, a Burke, or a Barre, I beg leave to lay a few of these before the public.

Great Britain, to encourage them to clear the country of those woods, which totally covered America, gave a bounty, and still continues it, on all their fir and pine timber, fit for masts, yards, bowsprits, &c. of 20 s. sterling for each ton of 40 cubick feet, customary girt measure, which is equal to 6 d. every solid foot.

The bounty on their hemp and flax is no less than 6 l. *per* ton.

For every barrel of tar, made in the ordinary manner, 6 s. *per* barrel; each barrel to contain 31 gallons English measure.

For tar made by particular directions, 10 s. *per* barrel.

For every barrel of pitch, 2 s. 6 d. *per* barrel.

For every barrel of turpentine, 3 s. 9 d. *per* barrel.

For every pound of Indigo, if but half the value of that made by the French, 6 d. *per* pound, English weight.

When we consider what great premiums these are, and how much they have contributed towards the improvement

of that wild uncultivated country, I may with great truth say, that the money paid by the inhabitants of this kingdom has done the whole that is done. After all this is allowed them, when their goods come to market, we pay the full market price; and I am certain, the value of the bounties paid will almost purchase goods of the same species and quality in Russia, Sweden, Norway, and other parts of Europe, Indigo excepted; and the bounty of 6d per lib. is a very high bounty, and a great encouragement to raise it.

Notwithstanding these bounties and encouragements, it is well known that the Americans carry on an illicit trade with the West Indies, as well as with the Dutch, French, and Spaniards. Even this does not satisfy them. They go further in cheating the mother country. They carry on a great smuggling trade with many ports in Europe. Those which come within my own knowledge, I shall now mention; they are, Archangel, Petersburg, Riga, Hamburgh, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Dunkirk, &c. At times they call at some ports in Great Britain, and clear out part of their cargoes for our own plantations; but the part that is liable to high duties is cleared for St Eustatia, or some free port in the West Indies; by which means they deprive the revenue of these duties, while all the commodities are landed in our own settlements.

One would think, after such evasive schemes to rob the Mother Country, the Americans would find few if any advocates for them in the British senate. These honourable gentlemen, however, who are fond of the name of *Patriot* and which is very liberally bestowed upon them by the multitude in our neighbouring kingdom, with a degree of effrontery, not easy to be accounted for, hold forth, that the Americans pay large sums in duties and excise, to the revenue, for the goods they take from us.

The best answer to these gentlemen's false and fallacious arguments, as I before hinted, are facts. Some of these I will submit to the public; from which it will appear how little the revenue is benefited by the boasted importation of the Americans from Great Britain. In this view, I must inform these gentlemen, as they seem not to have known it before, that the Americans pay no duty on any necessary or convenience of life, taken from Great Britain, which we see fall very heavy upon ourselves.—I shall here enumerate such as at present occur to me.

The duties are drawn back, by the exporter, on all malt liquors, and spirits made in Great Britain, as well as the  
bottles

bottles which contain them—on all glass—on leather, however manufactured—on cordage made from foreign hemp—on soap, candles, salt, paper, vellum, cards, starch, gold and silver lace, and many other articles.—Almost the whole duties, paid on foreign linen, are drawn back, and bounties given on most of our own made linen and canvasses, equal to all the duties paid on soap, pot, pearl, wood and weed ashes, made use of in bleaching and whitening the same.—From this it must appear, that, as the Americans are altogether exempted from land tax, they can live at one half the expence it must cost our poor labourers, and indeed all classes of people in this country.

I am fully persuaded, that the inhabitants of the city of Edinburgh, and port of Leith, pay more duty and excise annually, than all America does to the revenue of Great Britain. I can therefore see no reason that we should pay the army and navy for their protection, if they will not contribute equally. That we should be saddled with near two millions annually, to pay the interest of money borrowed on their account, to keep them from being scalped, or drove out of all their boasted free country, into the Atlantic, appears to me, and, I dare say, to every impartial inhabitant in South or North Britain, extremely hard and unjust. How can we ever expect to lessen the public debts, or get free of these taxes on salt, leather, and malt liquors, which, in a particular manner, affect the poor, if we are to pay the American debts as well as our own? Let them pay 25 s. annually, each individual, as we do, raise it as they please; but let this nation have it to ease numbers of her tradesmen, manufacturers, porters, and labouring people of every denomination. The Americans have good land at sixpence per acre, for which our honest farmers pay at the rate of 20 s. besides the numberless taxes under which this country at present labours. The goods and manufactures we send to America are paid us in their own produce. We seldom or never get specie from them; that they employ elsewhere, to carry on their clandestine trade.

From these facts it would appear, that we are not so much indebted to the American trade as our patriots would have us believe, and their ungratitude now, in attempting at independency, must be proportionally heightened.

It has been said, that we in this country, have no merit, either in the *discovery* or *conquest* of them. It is our sister kingdom England, which has the sole merit of both. In consequence of the Union, however, we came to have an equal share with them in their trade and commerce to these settlements;

settlements; and, since that period, we have done our part to people, protect, and support them.

A great deal has been thrown out as to their charters. By what authority did they hold these charters? Did these charters defend them from the encroachments of the French and Indians, who drove them out of all the fast holds they had in the back settlements; and, would have drove the whole of them into the Atlantic, had it not been for the troops from Great Britain? I had almost said, from the *Highlands of Scotland*; for *they* most undoubtedly conquered America, more than it was done in Germany. Lord Chatham, when he wanted to pay compliments to his own abilities, as prime minister, could not help bringing those hardy and intrepid race of men to his aid. "Much, says he, neglected in the war before last, they (i. e. the *Highlanders*) had nigh overturned the state; yet these very men, in the late war, I brought to combat on your side: They served with fidelity as they fought with valour, and conquered for you in every part of the world; and in no part were they more serviceable than in North America."

How did the North Americans behave under Braddock? The time is not so distant but most of us will remember, what a despicable figure they made, both in the field, and in supplying the troops, sent not only to preserve their country, but themselves from being scalped. Trusting to their support, and to save them from perdition, how many of our brave countrymen lost their lives? among others, a Sir Peter Halket, an ornament to his country, and to mankind. I had the honour to be known to Sir Peter; his life was of more value than many Americans. Now, however, the time is come, that they have forgot all these most essential services done them; services that have cost this nation at least the blood of 15,000 good men, and 20,000,000 l. of good sterling money; and, when parliament taxes an article of luxury or effeminacy, of no real use, I mean *Tea*, what a noise do they make? Would to God that all our taxes were laid on that destructive, mean, insignificant article, and taken off the necessaries of life! Happy would it then be for this country. Let those who drink tea, pay for it; and on condition the duties were taken off salt and leather, of which the poor pay almost the whole, I heartily wish it were at 30s. per pound.

The way and manner the people in Boston took to disappoint Government of raising this duty, is indeed without precedent. No sooner it is brought into port, than they make a formal attack upon it; as if the tea was to come into their houses,



houses, and to levy the tax of itself. Had they allowed the tea to have been landed, and suffered it to rot before they would use or purchase it, they would have acted like rational men : Or, if it was rotten before it came to hand, as I have heard some giddy-headed people say, why buy it, or have any thing to do with it ? The East India company was not to oblige or force them to purchase their goods. But to allow a lawless banditti to commit piracy in open sun shine, and not to endeavour, by every means, to oppose them, was acquiescing in their crime. Had I been master of the ship the tea was on board, with my ten Scots boys at my back, (and I am no fighting man) each of us should have shot our man, before they had taken up the hatches, if we should have been cut to pieces in the end. A bill of lading is a sacred writing. The ship-master obliges himself to deliver his cargo, *sea hazard excepted*. As there was no war, they were pirates who presumed to touch his cargo ; and as such they should have been treated by the ship-master, and the inhabitants of Boston. If, therefore, the Bostonians did not use their utmost endeavours to prevent them from an open violation of the laws of every country, and to secure the persons of the pirates, they ought to pay all the cost of the goods, and every expence and damage incurred. Were the inhabitants of Edinburgh and Leith tamely to look on, and allow a lawless mob to go on board a ship in Leith harbour, or in the road of Leith, and suffer the cargo to be taken out and destroyed before their faces, without doing the utmost in their power to prevent it, they would, by the law, be obliged to pay the damages, and undergo a severe censure from their country and all good men.

I have been twice in America, and traded considerably to different parts of it, but not to advantage, as I could not get payments. I have, at present, several hundred pounds due there, which I would willingly give a right to for as many hundred pence. And I verily believe, were the Americans to balance accounts with this country, all their boasted wealth and property would not discharge the just and lawful debts due by them to the inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland.

So far back as the 31st of December 1774, I proposed the following plan for reducing the Americans to obedience : Take off the bounties given upon the importation of their goods ; let them carry none to any market but to Britain, Ireland, and the West India islands, our own property, and no other ; and, to prevent them from trading with the French, Spanish, or any other settlements, let them go under convoy of our men of war, and take sailing orders ; in which let the

owners

owners of the ships and cargoes be mentioned, and the bill of lading be affixed to the sailing orders; the ships to pay all attention, as under convoy in time of war, as to the signals, rendezvous, &c.

Ten frigates of 32 guns, ten ships of 20 guns, and twenty sloops of 14 guns each, will do the business, and employ our seamen and soldiers. Let each ship have only 2-3ds of her complement of sailors; let the other 1-3d, to make up the full complement, be soldiers, which may be stationed thus:

Two Sloops, 14 guns, at Savannah in Georgia.

Two Ships, 20 guns, and two sloops, 14 each, at Charleston, South Carolina.

Two sloops at Wilmington, Cape Fear, North Carolina.

One ship 20 guns, one sloop, at Smert, Sound, Albemarle.

Two frigates, two sloops, Cape Henry, and Cape Charles, Chiswick's Bay, Virginia.

One frigate, two sloops, Maryland.

Two frigates, two sloops, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Two frigates, two ships, 20 guns, three sloops, Long Island and Newport.

Three frigates, five ships 20 guns, four sloops, at Boston and in the Massachusetts Bay, Salem, &c. Or in such manner as the Lords of the Admiralty shall think most for the good of the service, and will most surely contribute speedily to bring these ungrateful Americans to their duty, and their own good; I had almost said, their *salvation*. Remove the whole military, except such as have been always employed in their forts and garisons; for the money spent by the troops feeds them, and spirits them up to rebellion.

To prevent the necessity of a convoy going to Great Britain, let the masters, owners, and merchants, who ship the goods, find security in double the value of ship and cargo, that they shall really and truly land them in some part of Great Britain or Ireland, (sea-hazard excepted) and no where else, or forfeit their bond to the public; and, to relieve the bond, they should have two certificates, under the hands of the collector, comptroller, and surveyor of the port where the cargo is discharged, as to the true performance, so as they can transmit one by first ships, and keep the other to be brought over to America by themselves, to relieve their bond, or cancel it.

Every man of property, obstructing or flying in the face of the laws made by Great Britain, should forfeit his whole estate and effects, as guilty of high treason against the state; and all merchants and others, forfeit their goods and chattles, and their persons be sent home to the country from which they or their forefathers originally came; for there is not

one in ten of them who was either himself, or his forefathers, born in Great Britain: They are mostly made up of German emigrants, French refugees, and convicts of all nations transported from Great Britain and Ireland, who never could get bread in their own country: yet they, forsooth, must boast what their forefathers did to support our constitution: For shame! that Britain should be deluded by such a hotchpotch medley of foreign enthusiastic madmen; who, whilst they throw dirt at the family that gave them most of their charters, praise Lord Chatham for ruining them, and hurting the mother country. At the same time, they rail at Lord Bute for making a peace that gave them a quiet possession of all that vast country, by getting the French to give up every place in North America to the Crown of Great Britain. I was in London at the time the peace was in agitation. I had the honour of being well acquainted with Sir Henry Erskine, the Right Honourable James Oswald, and many people in authority at that period. I have often been asked, what the opinion of the merchants was. I always told them, the acquisition of all North America, upon our back settlements, was the great object. I own, my worthy friend Sir H. Erskine foresaw things which did not, at that time, occur to me; he often said, "These people are turbulent. It would be better to leave part of Canada to the French, to keep them in a proper subordination." I have even heard some very sensible merchants on the Change of London say so; but by far the greatest number were for the terms which were agreed to; and a glorious peace it was.

These inflammatory letters, from the general Congress to the people of Great Britain, and to their friends and fellow-subjects of Quebec, are wrote upon the most fallacious and base principles; not a word of truth from beginning to end, except what they quote from my late most worthy correspondent, the great Baron Montesquieu. Had they a trial at his court and constitution, or the King of Prussia's, that Protestant hero, they would soon be brought to themselves, and to good manners. In short, these detestable letters are not conceived in the style of merchants, by whom only they ought to have been wrote; but appear to be the productions of some banished English or Irish attorney, or limb of the law, who has banished himself from this country; or by some of the vermin of the clergy, who infest that deluded country and people.

I took the liberty of transmitting to Lord North, a copy of this Plan; and at the same time used the freedom of writing my opinion to his Lordship on the subject, and of offering my advice, as a private person, and a friend



friend to the mother country, in what manner the Americans might be brought to a sense of their duty, and allegiance to their parent state, with the least prejudice to either of the contending parties. This I did not think prudent to publish to the world at the time. Indeed, such a step would have entirely destroyed the very intention of the writer, had his Lordship adopted any part of the plan proposed, which was not the case. The outlines of my letter was, To impress all the seamen, belonging to the American vessels, from the Cabin boy to the Master, and to rate them on board the ships of war sent to block up their ports, at the highest wages any of them ever received, when employed in the merchants service. To land no troops at any of the ports so blocked up; as the money spent by the troops would enable the Americans the longer to continue their resistance, after a stop was put to their trade, and also might be productive of much bloodshed, which has already happened, and, it is much to be feared, will be greatly increased, before any accommodation takes place. The reason why I was solicitous to have all the seamen in America impressed was this: Though I have the highest esteem for that useful and brave set of men, yet long experience amongst them has convinced me, that they would rather do mischief than be idle. If I might be allowed a conjecture, I could almost venture to say, that the repulse which the King's troops met with at Lexington and Bunker's Hill, was occasioned chiefly by so many honest industrious fellows being thrown out of employment. If any future skirmish shall happen, which it is more than probable will be the case, I am much afraid, that these poor destitute seamen, who might have been employed, with advantage to themselves and their country, on board of the ships of war, will, as the case now stands, prove the most intrepid enemies which our troops will meet with in the field; whereas, if these seamen had been on board our ships of war, they would have had much influence in making the merchants and others come into reasonable terms. I am sensible, that the impressing of the seamen may be objected to, as being against law. But, in answer to this, it may be observed, that necessity has no law; and that it is always customary to impress seamen in the time of war.

From the proceedings of the houses of Parliament, I observe, that a plan, similar, in the most essential parts, to the one above recited, will now be adopted. Whether it would not have been more effectual twelve months ago, it would be presumption in me to decide upon. That I must leave to wiser heads to determine.

The



The commencement of the Americans intentions to throw off the allegiance of Great Britain, are not of yesterday. They did not even begin with the Stamp-act, as many people have imagined, though I will readily allow, the repeal of that act gave them a boldness which they had not formerly assumed, and led them to imagine, that Great Britain was unable to do any thing contrary to the inclinations of America.

The latter end of Sir Robert Walpole's administration, in the year 1739, gave birth to all that has happened since. The *Patriotic* party of that day, headed by Sir John Bernard, a very worthy man, but who undoubtedly had been imposed upon, played the same game which our present *Patriots* are attempting, though, I must, with better success. They forced the minister to break through the act of navigation, and to allow the Americans to export their *enumerated goods*, as they were pleased to call them, *viz.* all their rice, wheat, barley, Indian corn, and all sorts of corns, fish, &c. &c. to any port in Europe, south of Cape Finisterre. Before that period, trade was carried on with peace and quietness, and a certain profit to Great Britain, as well as great advantage to America. But no sooner was this door opened, than the Americans commenced smugglers. It pointed out a way for them to throw off all connection in trade with the mother country, whose fleets, at the same time, were their protection. With the British flag flying, and their Mediterranean pass in their cabins, to screen them from all the piratical states, they carried on trade with more safety than any other nation in Europe. But, say this *grateful* people, we are not to pay any proportion of the expence necessary for the support of that fleet; that Gibraltar, and that Port Mahon, which afford us this protection. Let old England, and poor Scotland, pay for our safety; but let us reap the profits of their trade and commerce.

The British trade in the Mediterranean, before the 1739, the time when the *patriotic* plan above mentioned took place, was much more extensive than ever it has been since. The cause is obvious. The corn and fish, alone, were great articles in point of freight, and gave bread to our own sailors, whom we can always depend upon for manning our fleets. Can we trust to the Americans for this necessary piece of duty?—No!—If we repose any confidence in them, they may perhaps point their guns against us, as they do at present from their floating batteries.

It is surely high time, therefore, for Great Britain to encourage her own navigation. Let the Americans be put on the same footing, with regard to trade, which they enjoyed

in the 1725. Let their exports and imports be through the channel of Great Britain, Ireland, and our West India settlements; then, and not till then, will they pay us for what they take. For many years past they have taken our goods, turned them into money, and with that money gone to Holland, Hamburgh, France, and other countries, where they purchase their manufactures, while they allowed ours to remain unpaid.

Were these matters properly adjusted, and a settlement of the present differences effected, in a manner suitable to the honour and dignity of Great Britain, Scotland might carry on a trade with America, advantageous to both countries.

We could furnish them with Osnaburghs, Checks, Coarse Linens, at or under 14d. per yard, Handkerchiefs, and common Calicoes, on as good terms as they could be supplied with them from the Continent; for the reasons I have given in a former part of this work, we cannot indeed compare with them in the finer sorts of linen.

All sorts of Woollen goods we can unquestionably furnish them on better terms than any other country in Europe; with Cloths from the coarsest Flannel to the finest Superfine: with Hats, from 10d. to 30s. a-piece; with Stockings, from 6d. to 10s. the pair; and, with every other article in the Woollen branch proportionally cheap.

Shoes, and every thing made from leather, we are acknowledged to be equally expert in, with the manufacturers of any other country, and can afford to sell them at as low prices.

Chimney grates we stand unrivalled in; nor, I believe, will any other nation compete with us in any wares manufactured from Iron.

Upon the whole: When the Americans come to their senses, they will find it for their interest, as well as their safety and convenience, to strengthen the bond of friendship with the Mother Country; and to promote her trade and manufactures. Let them consider how much the flag, which hitherto has protected them, would be despised and torn to pieces by every petty Prince, were it not for the British Lion. Even the king of Prussia, that little maritime Monarch, could fit out as many ships of war at Embden, Stetin and Koningsburgh, as would destroy all the *great* North American trade in two years.

## SECTION

## SECTION VI.

*Of TRADE in general, interspersed with such observations as the author thinks, if duly weighed and considered, may be productive of good effects to this country.*

THE preceding Sections of this work were taken up in a great measure on the manufactures of Scotland. This last I reserved for saying a few words on trade in general, and such observations as might occur, whether on trade or any other subject. I shall begin with trade.

The scheme by which Sir Matthew Decker proposed to raise the supply, in place of the present mode, was surely a wite plan, and, if adopted, would save some hundred thousands to the nation annually, and add 30,000 men to the state, who are now employed in collecting, surveying, and herding the traders and smugglers. His scheme puts an end to all smuggling. And as, in fact, the land-holders, and people of property, in the end, pay almost all the duties of customs and excise, it would be better for them, on the whole, and much more convenient for the merchant; for, by the present way of levying the customs, the man that deals to any extent in foreign trade, must have a great command of money, otherwise he can import little, the duties being often double the prime cost of the goods abroad; and these duties must be paid before you can see your goods. This throws the importer always largely in advance, and requires three stocks to carry on trade, where one would do, were the duties taken off; that is, L. 1000 would carry on as much as L. 2000 will at present.

There never was, in my time, a minister who has paid greater regard and attention to the commerce and trade of Great Britain than the present Lord North: He has shown a steadiness and firmness of every thing for the good of King and country. But, at present, how far such a plan can take place, is uncertain. I know most branches of the revenue are appropriated to pay the interest of certain loans, and it must take time to get the principals paid. But, with great  
submission

submission to the wisdom of parliament, I think the duties should be considerably lowered, particularly on French goods, which, at present, are next to a prohibition. The long enmity and jealousy betwixt the English and French, has kept them at a great distance from one another in point of trade; it is high time to remove it: There are no people more honest and easy in their dealings in commerce, (the English excepted); I have dealt largely with them, and have always found them so. I have been taken their prisoner at sea; they used me with the greatest humanity and hospitality. I had the honour to correspond with the great Baron Montesquieu. As a merchant, his name adds much to the reputation of the profession. He was an honour to mankind. I had great pleasure in dealing with him. His wines were excellent, and at a moderate price. If we would open trade with the French, by reducing the duties on their wines and brandies, I am persuaded they will meet us half-way, and allow our manufactures to be imported into France, on equal terms. If this should take place, it would most effectually lower the price of corn, and all the necessaries of life, and afford us good and wholesome spirits; for in all our northern countries some spirits are absolutely necessary; the more moderately used the better: But, in this cold climate, I have seen the good effects of a little at a time, both by sea and land. And, as we must have spirits, is it not better to get them of wholesome quality, and pay them with our manufactures, than to distil two millions of quarters of our best grain, which is the cause of keeping it always too high? and, if good plentiful crops happen, the exporting your corn is of much greater consequence to the kingdom than making it into spirits. I can easily see what will be objected; the revenue of excise and customs will suffer. I think not; for, if the duties are low, there will be no smuggling; the importation of wines and brandy would be immense. Were it one fourth of what the French wine duty is at present, and one third of what the brandy excise is, the revenue would draw double of what it now does, and answer every purpose for which these duties were laid on. If these measures were to take place, they would extend our navigation greatly. The Dutch and Swedes are at present the greatest carriers of wine, brandy, oil, &c. from the south of France, Havre de Grace, Dunkirk, and all the ports in the channel. I myself had several ships employed in the freight way, from and to the ports mentioned, and cleared money on my ships so employed. But I paid, as all our ships must, five livres to the state for each ton the ship measured. If these livres were taken off, as they certainly would, if we had our tariff of trade settled



settled, the British ships would get the whole of these freights, and a very great object it is. The preference is always given to our ships over the Mediterranean; and for a sensible reason. We lose fewer ships, in proportion to our number employed, than any nation in the world; and besides, our sailors are more honest. In all my practice, (and I have freighted some hundreds of ships,) I never had a package broke up, nor a cask broached or pierced, or any sort of embezzlement on my cargoes of goods, when on board our own British vessels. Other nations are not so free of this vice. Our sailors are undoubtedly the most honest-hearted, open, friendly fellows in Europe, and despise a dirty action, either at sea or on shore. This trade would encrease their numbers, who are the great bulwarks of our nation.

Postlethwait says, the coasting and foreign trade to London alone employs 100,000 seamen in time of peace. I suppose them to be only 75,000. The navy 25,000, seamen in time of peace. All the rest of our coasting and foreign trade, in the whole of the ports of Great Britain and Ireland, 130,000. These numbers are formidable, and the more so, as you can have a great part of them on board your fleets, upon an emergency. Your homeward coasting trade being so extensive, enabled this nation, now so happily connected, and unanimous in their operations, to equip a fleet in four months; superior to what France and Spain could do in two years. Do you think that so wise a nation as France will chuse to quarrel with you at these times? they know too well the difference now, to what it was some years ago; last war convinced them of the truth of it. They must consider how many brave hardy sailors and soldiers, come from this country, to fight, conquer, or die with their brethren the English; instead of being, as formerly, so imprudent and impolitic as to take side with the French, upon all occasions, against England. This makes a mighty difference in the balance of war. And I hope we shall never be on other terms with the English nation than we are at present, and were all last war. In this situation, no power in Europe can have ministers of so little penetration but must see the consequence of making war with a brave and united kingdom. Small as the space is that Great Britain and Ireland occupies in the ocean; yet we have three sea ports to one, more than all France and Spain together. This is our great nursery for seamen.

Last war, you had one thousand men on board his Majesty's fleets and privateers, with the King's commission, to cruise against your enemies. At that very time you had 8000 merchant ships carrying on the trade of Great Britain and Ireland, who

rode

*Sturges*

rode in safety, and triumphant in every quarter of the globe. What must foreigners think of this nation, that could carry on such extensive commerce, and take every place they attempted, and destroy every fleet of the enemy they met with? Will they be rash in making war with that nation?

I can foresee another objection will be started, as to the rum from our plantations, and West-India islands. Why not let their rum be imported at brandy-duty, or a trifle under, though they deserve but little favour from the mother-country? they are disobedient children. One thing, I well know, that, if they can get goods at St Eustatia, Surinam, or any of the free ports in the West-Indies, on equal terms, or a trifle lower, they will never take ours. This country therefore should take measures for their own preservation, to keep their provisions and necessaries of life at moderate prices, so as to carry on our manufactures, and find a market for them, independent of these wrong-headed people. This step, among others, would bring great advantages, and humble the pride and haughtiness of the Americans, who, I have no doubt, would have thrown themselves into the hands of any power in Europe, if they could have found one so rash as themselves. But, as I have before said, the princes of Europe are too wise to embark in such Don Quixote schemes as they have formerly done, against so great a nation. I again say, that if we could settle proper conditions and articles with France, and trade with them, as we do with the ungrateful Portuguese, both nations would profit by the bargain, and could keep the balance of Europe in their own hands; and, sure I am, we would increase our wealth, and health, more by this than all the continental connections we have. Times are greatly changed, and that rivetated antipathy the English had to that nation should be forgotten, as we in Scotland have done with the English. We heartily despise the illiberal, indecent reflections thrown out by the disappointed patriots, well knowing, that the English, ninety-nine out of a hundred, look on us as their brethren, and would risque their lives and fortunes for us, as we have done for them; and we will be always ready to do so, on every occasion, when called for by King and Parliament. We love freedom and liberty, and enjoy it more than these flaming dissatisfied patriots, whose great aim is to get into places and power, and then we should be under fine management; but we have an old saying in this country, *Better keep well as make well.*

I would beg leave likewise to suggest, that, were the legislature to abolish all officers fees at the water-side, and give

give the land and coast-waiters more salary, it would be serving the revenue, and assisting the fair trader. These fees, &c. paid at the water-side are a great encouragement to the unfair trader, and a great loss to the merchant, who is not; nay, that practice makes the officer insult the man who imports fairly, and he cannot get equal dispatch as the other who pays high fees. It is to be hoped, at any rate, that all fees, within and without doors, will be taken off the Wool, and all materials wanted for that manufacture. The fees at present are very high on Wool, and Woollen goods going coast ways, and the officers very troublesome. It will be of much consequence to trade, if some regulations take place as to these fees, and the officers be ordered to do their duty without fee or reward, and to give all dispatch at legal hours. Upon the whole, the revenue will never be honestly dealt with, nor the merchant well served, while these officers have the disposal of favours, and the public money, as they please, and to take such liberties as are most shameful; as the merchant must pay, or put up with the abuse that these people will oblige him to submit to.

I have already noticed, that most of the towns and villages in Scotland, are extremely well situated for carrying on Trade and Manufactures, but none more so than those in East Lothian, particularly the Woollen branch; it being a populous healthy country, having plenty of corn and wool, while water and coals can be had at small expence.

There is one village, however, which I cannot omit mentioning here, as it did not fall properly to be treated of under any of my former Sections. The place I mean is Linton by Linton Bridge. The situation of this village is really beautiful, and might be made, at no great expence, a sea port, capable of receiving vessels from 50 to 80 tons. Two small locks would enable ships of these burthens to come up to Linton Bridge, and lighters and such craft could navigate to Haddington, the centre of the country. How great an advantage this would be to the proprietors of the lands, to the farmers, and all ranks of people, must at first sight be obvious. It would lessen the price of carriage of their corns, manufactures, and all kinds of produce, which they have occasion to carry to market, and have the same effect upon the coal, lime, or any other goods or materials, which are necessary to be brought into the middle of that rich country. This water communication would likewise save the roads, by keeping many heavy carriages off them, and would tend greatly to reduce the number of horses, which are found to be very burthensome, as well to the Gentlemen as the Farmer. Whether this useful work should be undertaken at the  
expence



expence of the proprietors of the lands in the environs, who would, in that case, be entitled to all the benefits resulting from it; or, by the public, who might be reimbursed by laying on a small tax on the ton of each vessel employed in that trade, does not belong to me to determine. One thing is very certain, that were such a plan adopted and carried into execution, it could not fail of being of great service to that part of the country; nor do I imagine it would require any extraordinary exertion of public spirit to accomplish it.

The Landholders at the Mouth of the Water of Tyne, might likewise add largely to their estates, were they to bank in their grounds on the sea shore, as our allies the Dutch do. They have still more sea to encounter with, and deeper water, where they have added many thousand acres of rich ground to their country, with nothing else than *staick* and *rice*. These materials, the people of this country, have just at hand; whereas the Hollanders have to bring them from places at many miles distance. The branches of the trees, brush-wood, and such refuse as comes from Tynningham forest, would do the business, and many hundred acres might be filled up in a few years with good soil fit for pasture or tillage. When a proper fence of *staick* and *rice* is once fixed, it is surprising how soon it fills up at the back. Every storm from the sea throws over abundance of such materials as feeds and firms it, and soon renders it solid ground. The salts with which these sea weeds or ware abound, keeps the ground in good health for many years, and adds so much real wealth to the proprietor and his country. An acquisition of this kind could not fail of affording great pleasure to those who carried such a scheme into execution, as they thereby not only would have the merit of adding so many acres to their own property, which formerly was of no use to the country, but likewise might induce others, equally well situated for such purposes, to follow their example. But, as some people may not be acquainted with what the Dutch call *staick* and *rice*, it will be proper here to explain it. The *staick* therefore, are large pieces of trees, which they drive far into the earth, at some distance from each other. The *rice* are a kind of twigs which they weave about the *staick*, and make a sort of net of the whole. This fence has been found by experience a greater preservative from the encroachments of the sea, than even bulwarks of stone. The former, yielding to the pressure of the water, and receiving through the interstices different kinds of sea ware and rubbish, becomes a strong and solid wall; while the latter, not giving way to such impulse, nor receiving any additional



ditional strength from the sea, is often carried away by its violence.

These undertakings, at the same time that they would be productive of riches to the proprietor and the country, would give employment to many industrious people. They also enjoy the same advantages with the fisheries; for every foot of ground thus taken in, as well as every fish caught, is a real and substantial acquisition, purchased at no expence whatever, but that of labour.

As the city of Edinburgh finds it very difficult to support their Charity Work-house, I cannot here omit throwing out some hints for that purpose, which I had from a gentleman of large property, and who is universally esteemed by all who have the honour of his acquaintance. He is a real friend to his country, and to Edinburgh in particular, as he resides very near it. This gentleman, about twenty years ago, mentioned to the Lord Provost, a man whose memory will long be held in the highest estimation, that he apprehended, were the people in the Poors House employed in picking, cleansing, spinning, and manufacturing our wool to make flannels for the dead, and every other article necessary for burying, in a decent manner, all who are interred in the several church yards of Edinburgh and Leith, such furnishings would go a great length to defray the expence of that charitable institution, and would be no tax on the inhabitants, as every thing could be furnished at the common price; and it was not doubted but that the Good Town, and all concerned, would give the ground to be broke upon the best terms, in order to encourage so public-spirited and charitable an undertaking. This proposal, however agreeable it might be to my worthy political friend, could not then be carried into execution, from the opposition he saw he would meet with, from the deacons of crafts, undertakers, upholsterers, &c. &c. But times have greatly altered since that period, and I have now so good an opinion of the tradesmen and dealers in Edinburgh at present, that I am hopeful, instead of throwing obstructions in the way, they will lend their helping hand to bring the matter to a fair trial. Many schemes have been proposed to support the Charity Work-house, but none have been adopted. A law to establish a poors rate, appears justly to be greatly against the inclinations of the inhabitants; and the yearly voluntary collections are disagreeable to some and troublesome to others. If the above scheme succeeds, and I can see no good reason why it should not, it might be of service to the whole country, as every parish in Scotland would naturally adopt the same plan. This would be literally supporting the living poor by

means of the dead ; nor need those employed in such matters at present be destitute of work, as there are many other branches to which they could turn their thoughts and hands,

Having said so much on improvements in general, I must now beg leave to offer a few observations on the attention which has been paid by some individuals, to the advancement of this desirable object.

The author of *Queries by a Man of Quality*, very justly celebrates the conduct of several English ladies, who have spoused Noblemen of this country, for the public spirit they have discovered in giving encouragement to the manufactures of that country which gave birth to their husbands ; nor, indeed, can they be sufficiently applauded for it. Many ladies of our own country are blessed with the same spirit and benevolent dispositions ; and I flatter myself, from such bright examples, their numbers will daily encrease. Out of numbers which might be mentioned, I shall only take notice of one Lady of Quality, worthy of imitation, whose place of residence is not a hundred miles removed from the Royal Palace of Holyrood-house. This Lady has a great deal of merit, in raising upon her Lord's estate, an excellent breed of sheep, of the fine wooled kind, as well as all other sorts of cattle, though in a very indifferent part of the country. This Lady has also variety of Woollen, Linen, Damasks, &c. manufactured under her own inspection, of excellent qualities.

In the same manner, from ladies of inferior quality, many might be mentioned worthy of imitation ; but in this, as in the former instance, I shall confine myself to one, as a pattern to other ladies, who would wish to promote the real interests of their country. The lady I mean, is spouse of a worthy citizen in an eastern burgh in East Lothian. The greatest pleasure she enjoys is that of giving employment to a number of industrious people in her neighbourhood, in the woollen and other branches of business, and of relieving the poor by acts of benevolence and charity : nor is her husband less assiduous in the same commendable work. He gives bread to hundreds, is an honour to his profession ; and a blessing to that part of the country where he resides, as well as to that part of the coast where I drew my first breath.

To multiply instances of the ladies and gentlemen of this country, who deserve to be held in the highest veneration for their public spirit, would be endless. They are daily encreasing, and I hope will continue to do so, till this country is brought to that state of improvement, in every branch of manufacture, of which its situation, in many respects, renders it so highly capable. We have had gentlemen of truly patriotic

triotic principles in former times. I hope the race are far from being extinguished. Mr M'Leod of Cadboll was one of those. An honour to his country; and, at the same time, so great an encourager of its manufactures, that, from his earliest years, he never wore that of any other country; as an instance of which, I must here mention an anecdote of that gentleman: Having come up to Edinburgh upon some private concerns, and standing in need of a new hat, he enquired his man of business, whether there was any hat-makers in Edinburgh? To this he answered in the affirmative, and at the same time told him, that a parcel should be immediately sent, that he might take his choice of one. This offer, however, Mr M'Leod rejected, well knowing the many tricks which are practised upon such occasions, of passing off for Scots, what in reality was the manufacture of England. He behaved therefore to see the hatter himself, and waited with patience till he had made one for him according to his directions. Were all our countrymen to behave in this manner, our manufacturers would be in no danger of wanting employment. Indeed, such a conduct is highly requisite at this time, when so many tricks of this nature are daily practised by many of our shop-keepers. Those, therefore, who wish to encourage the manufactures of their country, in order to avoid such impositions, should purchase from none but such as advertise the commodities of it. One company in Edinburgh, and they are not the least considerable in it, have already done so. There the public may be satisfied they will be supplied with real Scots cloths, as the company are concerned with more than one manufactory in that branch. I hope they will meet with that encouragement which every promoter of the interests of their country merits.

Notwithstanding this tract has drawn out to a much greater length than I at first expected, yet many things are omitted, which I once intended to have taken notice of; particularly, with regard to the mines and minerals, of which this country is so abundantly stored, and from which so much riches may be expected. I likewise intended to have taken notice of the delightful appearance of the face of the country, from the many improvements made upon it by the noblemen and gentlemen of property. But these, for the reason already mentioned, I am under the necessity of deferring till some other opportunity.

One improvement, I cannot omit taking notice of in this place, as it is a new as well as a useful. It is not properly supported at present, may however be so to this country. I mean the Directors of the Bank lately established by Mr Peter Williamson.



entercourse of correspondence between merchants is the most certain way of carrying on trade <sup>to</sup> advantage. I will, therefore, beg leave to mention, that no scheme projected by any person in Scotland, seems more calculated to effectuate this great purpose, than the Directory and Penny-Post, set on foot by Mr Williamson, and I should be sorry, on that account, if proper encouragement were not given to it.

Before I conclude, I cannot help returning my most grateful acknowledgments to these Noblemen and Gentlemen who have been pleased to testify their approbation of the Letters which, from time to time published to the world, on the manufactures and commerce of this country. The card which I some few days ago received, on this subject, from a Nobleman of the first distinction, and who has expended upwards of fifty thousand pounds sterling, upon improvements, in the neighbourhood of this city, is truly flattering; and I am happy that these Letters, which I meant entirely for the good of my country, have not been viewed in another light by those who are its greatest ornaments.

I have only to add, that however conscious I am of the little merit this treatise possesses, in point of composition, I am hopeful the intention with which it was undertaken will plead its excuse.